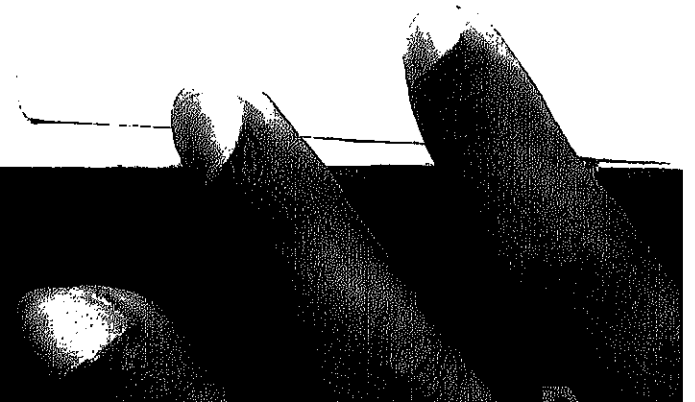
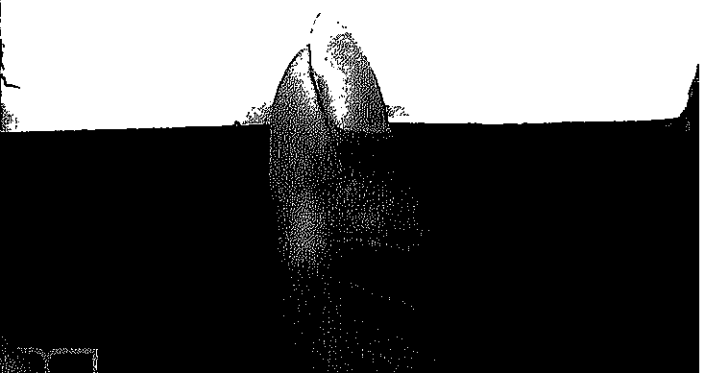
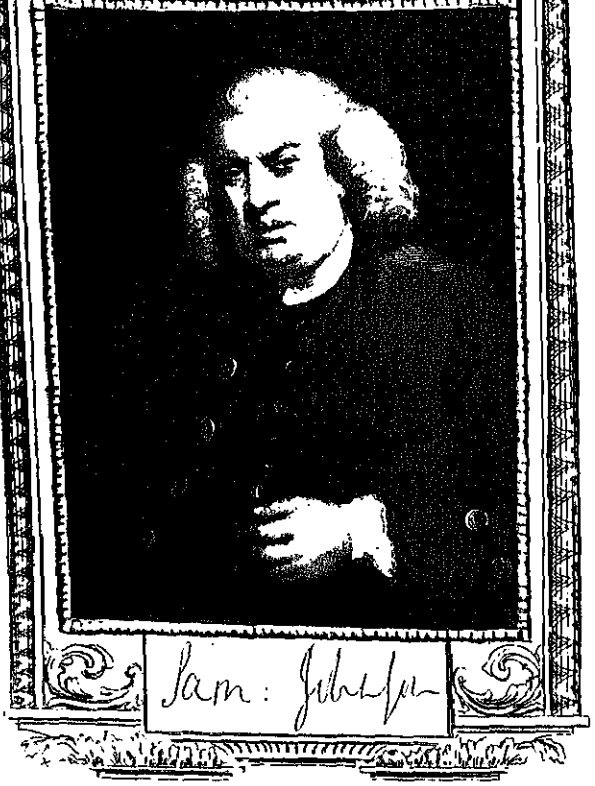


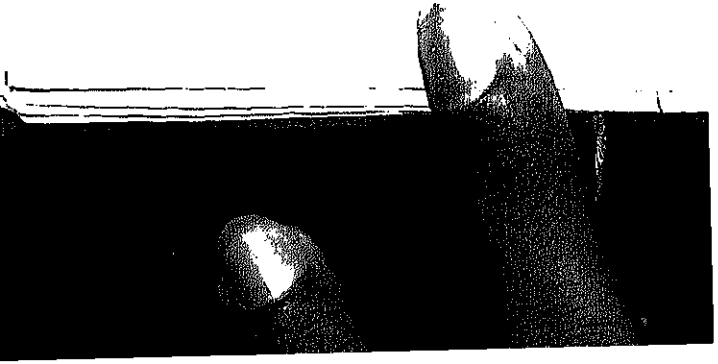
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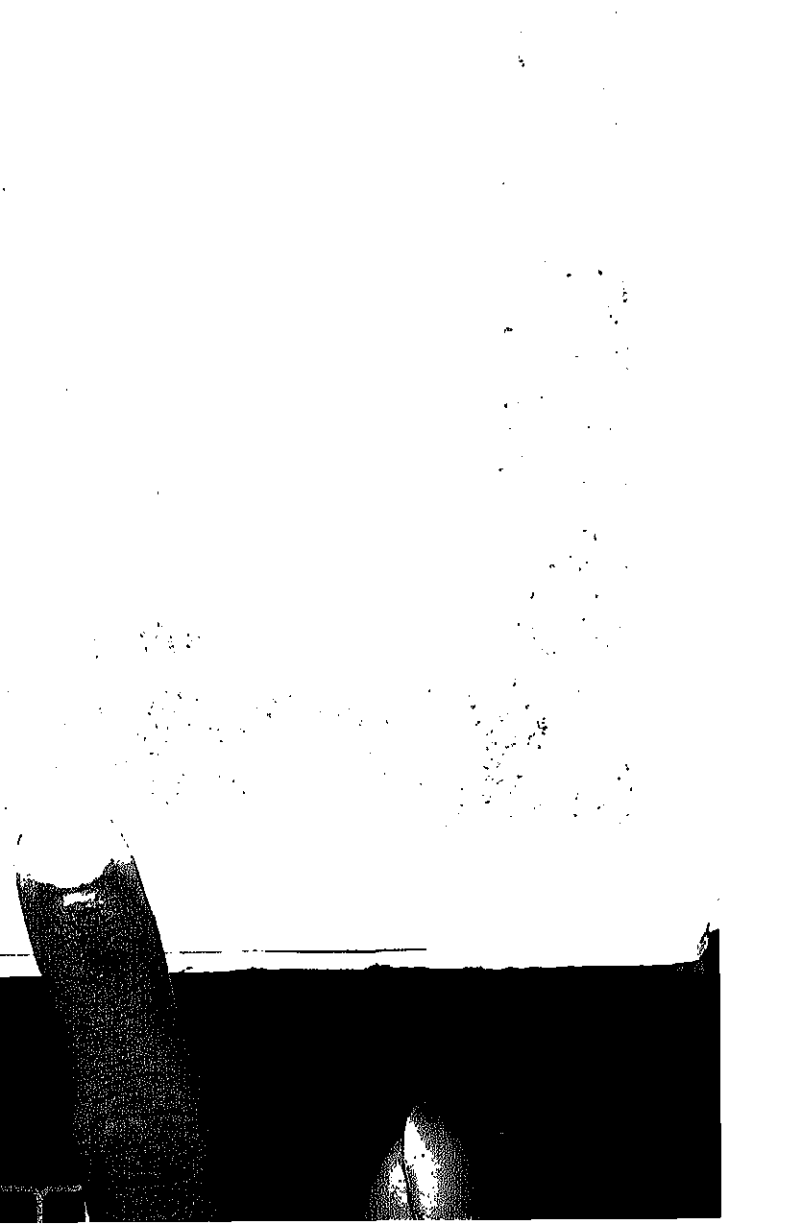


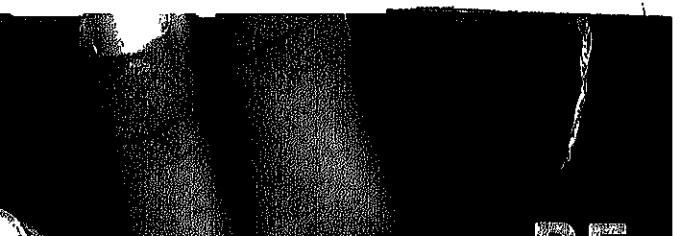
Edited by
ISRAEL
GOLLANCZ
M.A.




Sam: Johnson







THE LIFE of SAMUEL JOHNSON LL.D

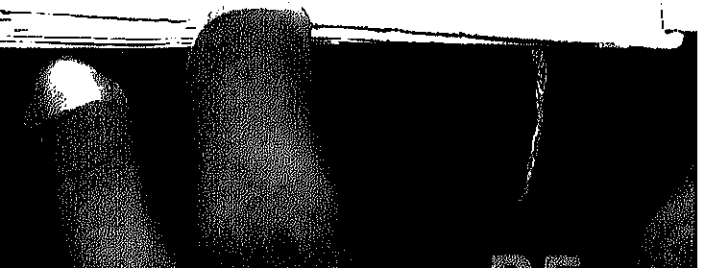
BY JAMES BOSWELL ESQ

IN SIX VOLUMES

VOLUME ONE

MDCCCXCVII: PUBLISHED · BY · J · M · DENT · AND · CO : ALDINE · HOUSE · LONDON · W · C





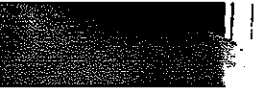
JOHNSON, LL.D., Comprehending AN ACCOUNT OF HIS STUDIES, AND NUMEROUS WORKS, IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER; A SERIES OF HIS EPISTOLARY CORRESPONDENCE AND CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY EMINENT PERSONS; AND VARIOUS ORIGINAL PIECES OF HIS COMPOSITION, NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED: THE WHOLE EXHIBITING A VIEW OF LITERATURE AND LITERARY MEN IN GREAT-BRITAIN, FOR NEAR HALF A CENTURY DURING WHICH HE FLOURISHED ❦ ❦ BY JAMES BOSWELL, ESQ.

——*Quò fit ut* OMNIS
Votiva pateat veluti descripta tabella
VITA SENIS—— HORAT.

VOL. I.

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DEDICATION

TO

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS

MY DEAR SIR,

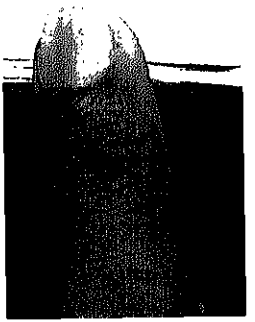
EVERY liberal motive that can actuate an Authour in the dedication of his labours, concurs in directing me to you, as the person to whom the following Work should be inscribed.

If there be a pleasure in celebrating the distinguished merit of a contemporary, mixed with a certain degree of vanity not altogether inexcusable, in appearing fully sensible of it, where can I find one, in complimenting whom I can with more general approbation gratify those feelings? Your excellence not only in the Art over which you have long presided with unrivalled fame, but also in Philosophy and elegant Literature, is well known to the present, and will continue to be the admiration of future ages. Your equal and placid temper, your variety of conversation, your true politeness, by which you are so amiable in private society, and that enlarged hospitality which has long made your house a common centre of union for the great, the accomplished, the learned, and the ingenious; all these qualities I can, in perfect confidence of not being accused of flattery, ascribe to you.

first eminence in the age in which he lived, whose company has been universally courted, I am justified in availing myself of the usual privilege of a Dedication, when I mention that there has been a long and uninterrupted friendship between us.

If gratitude should be acknowledged for favours received, I have this opportunity, my dear Sir, most sincerely to thank you for the many happy hours which I owe to your kindness,—for the cordiality with which you have at all times been pleased to welcome me,—for the number of valuable acquaintances to whom you have introduced me,—for the *noctes cœnæque Deûm*, which I have enjoyed under your roof.

If a work should be inscribed to one who is master of the subject of it, and whose approbation, therefore, must ensure it credit and success, the Life of Dr. Johnson is, with the greatest propriety, dedicated to Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was the intimate and beloved friend of that great man; the friend, whom he declared to be "the most invulnerable man he knew; whom, if he should quarrel with him, he should find the most difficulty how to abuse." You, my dear Sir, studied him, and knew him well: you venerated and admired him. Yet, luminous as he was upon the whole, you perceived all the shades which mingled in the grand composition; all the little peculiarities and slight blemishes which marked the literary Colossus. Your very warm commendation of the specimen which I gave in my "Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides," of



my being able to preserve his conversation in an authentick and lively manner, which opinion the Publick has confirmed, was the best encouragement for me to persevere in my purpose of producing the whole of my stores.

In one respect, this Work will, in some passages, be different from the former. In my "Tour," I was almost unboundedly open in my communications, and from my eagerness to display the wonderful fertility and readiness of Johnson's wit, freely shewed to the world its dexterity, even when I was myself the object of it. I trusted that I should be liberally understood, as knowing very well what I was about, and by no means as simply unconscious of the pointed effects of the satire. I own, indeed, that I was arrogant enough to suppose that the tenour of the rest of the book would sufficiently guard me against such a strange imputation. But it seems I judged too well of the world; for, though I could scarcely *believe it, I have been undoubtedly informed*, that many persons, especially in distant quarters, not penetrating enough into Johnson's character, so as to understand his mode of treating his friends, have arraigned my judgement, instead of seeing that I was sensible of all that they could observe.

It is related of the great Dr. Clarke, that when in one of his leisure hours he was unbending himself with a few friends in the most playful and frolicksome manner, he observed Beau Nash approaching; upon which he suddenly stopped;—"My boys, (said he,) let us be grave: here comes a fool." The world, my friend, I have found to be a great fool, as to that particular on which it has become necessary to speak very plainly. I

still kept in my mind that the whole truth is not always to be exposed. This, however, I have managed so as to occasion no diminution of the pleasure which my book should afford; though malignity may sometimes be disappointed of its gratifications.

I am,

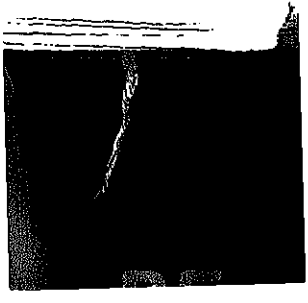
My dear Sir,

Your much obliged friend,

And faithful humble servant,

JAMES BOSWELL.

London,
April 20, 1791.



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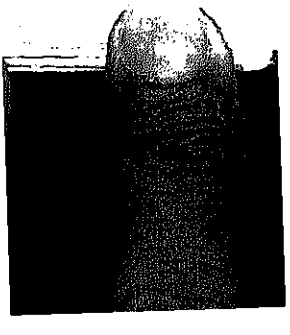
TO THE FIRST EDITION

I AT last deliver to the world a Work which I have long promised, and of which, I am afraid, too high expectations have been raised. The delay of its publication must be imputed, in a considerable degree, to the extraordinary zeal which has been shewn by distinguished persons in all quarters to supply me with additional information concerning its illustrious subject; resembling in this the grateful tribes of ancient nations, of which every individual was eager to throw a stone upon the grave of a departed Hero, and thus to share in the pious office of erecting an honourable monument to his memory.

The labour and anxious attention with which I have collected and arranged the materials of which these volumes are composed, will hardly be conceived by those who read them with careless facility. The stretch of mind and prompt assiduity by which so many conversations were preserved, I myself, at some distance of time, contemplate with wonder; and I must be allowed to suggest, that the nature of the work, in other respects, as it consists of innumerable detached particulars, all which, even the most minute, I have spared no pains to ascertain with a scrupulous authenticity, has occasioned a degree of trouble far beyond that of any other species of composition. Were I to detail the books which I have consulted, and the

men of my trouble, that I have sometimes been obliged to run half over London, in order to fix a date correctly; which, when I had accomplished, I well knew would obtain me no praise, though a failure would have been to my discredit. And after all, perhaps, hard as it may be, I shall not be surprised if omissions or mistakes be pointed out with invidious severity. I have also been extremely careful as to the exactness of my quotations; holding that there is a respect due to the publick, which should oblige every Authour to attend to this, and never to presume to introduce them with,—"I think I have read;"—or —"If I remember right;" when the originals may be examined.

I beg leave to express my warmest thanks to those who have been pleased to favour me with communications and advice in the conduct of my Work. But I cannot sufficiently acknowledge my obligations to my friend Mr. MALONE, who was so good as to allow me to read to him almost the whole of my manuscript, and make such remarks as were greatly for the advantage of the Work; though it is but fair to him to mention, that upon many occasions I differed from him, and followed my own judgement. I regret exceedingly that I was deprived of the benefit of his revision, when not more than one half of the book had passed through the press; but after having completed his very laborious and admirable edition of SHAKSPEARE, for which he generously would accept of no other reward but that fame which he has so deservedly obtained, he fulfilled his promise of a long-wished-for visit to his relations



in Ireland; from whence his safe return finibus Atticis *is desired by his friends here, with all the classical ardour of* Sic te Diva potens Cypri; *for there is no man in whom more elegant and worthy qualities are united; and whose society, therefore, is more valued by those who know him.*

It is painful to me to think, that while I was carrying on this Work, several of those to whom it would have been most interesting have died. Such melancholy disappointments we know to be incident to humanity; but we do not feel them the less. Let me particularly lament the Reverend THOMAS WARTON, *and the Reverend Dr.* ADAMS. *Mr.* WARTON, *amidst his variety of genius and learning, was an excellent Biographer. His contributions to my Collection are highly estimable; and as he had a true relish of my* "Tour to the Hebrides," *I trust I should now have been gratified with a larger share of his kind approbation. Dr.* ADAMS, *eminent as the Head of a College, as a writer, and as a most amiable man, had known* JOHNSON *from his early years, and was his friend through life. What reason I had to hope for the countenance of that venerable Gentleman to this Work, will appear from what he wrote to me upon a former occasion from Oxford, November* 17, 1785:—"Dear Sir, I hazard this letter, not knowing where it will find you, to thank you for your very agreeable 'Tour,' which I found here on my return from the country, and in which you have depicted our friend so perfectly to my fancy, in every attitude, every scene and situation, that I have thought myself in the company, and of the party almost throughout. It has given very general satisfaction; and those who have found most fault with a passage here and there, have agreed

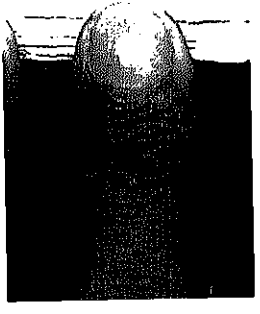
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of our hero's foibles had been a little more shaded; but it is useful to see the weaknesses incident to great minds; and you have given us Dr. Johnson's authority that in history all ought to be told."

Such a sanction to my faculty of giving a just representation of Dr. JOHNSON I could not conceal. Nor will I suppress my satisfaction in the consciousness, that by recording so considerable a portion of the wisdom and wit of "the brightest ornament of the eighteenth century,"[1] *I have largely provided for the instruction and entertainment of mankind.*

London, April 20, 1791

[1] See Mr. Malone's Preface to his edition of Shakspeare.



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TO THE SECOND EDITION

THAT I was anxious for the success of a Work which had employed much of my time and labour, I do not wish to conceal: but whatever doubts I at any time entertained, have been entirely removed by the very favourable reception with which it has been honoured. That reception has excited my best exertions to render my Book more perfect; and in this endeavour I have had the assistance not only of some of my particular friends, but of many other learned and ingenious men, by which I have been enabled to rectify some mistakes, and to enrich the Work with many valuable additions. These I have ordered to be printed separately in quarto, for the accommodation of the purchasers of the first edition. May I be permitted to say that the typography of both editions does honour to the press of Mr. HENRY BALDWIN, *now Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers, whom I have long known a worthy man and an obliging friend.*

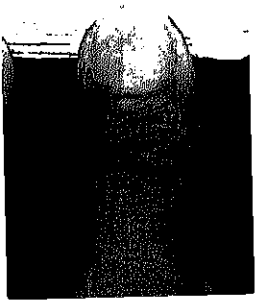
In the strangely mixed scenes of human existence, our feelings are often at once pleasing and painful. Of this truth, the progress of the present Work furnishes a striking instance. It was highly gratifying to me that my friend, Sir JOSHUA REYNOLDS, *to whom it is inscribed, lived to peruse it, and to give the strongest testimony to its fidelity; but before a*

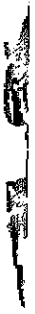
deep, and lasting, and extensive, proportionate to the felicity which he diffused through a wide circle of admirers and friends.

In reflecting that the illustrious subject of this Work, by being more extensively and intimately known, however elevated before, has risen in the veneration and love of mankind, I feel a satisfaction beyond what fame can afford. We cannot, indeed, too much or too often admire his wonderful powers of mind, when we consider that the principal store of wit and wisdom which this Work contains, was not a particular selection from his general conversation, but was merely his occasional talk at such times as I had the good fortune to be in his company; and, without doubt, if his discourse at other periods had been collected with the same attention, the whole tenor of what he uttered would have been found equally excellent.

His strong, clear, and animated enforcement of religion, morality, loyalty, and subordination, while it delights and improves the wise and the good, will, I trust, prove an effectual antidote to that detestable sophistry which has been lately imported from France, under the false name of Philosophy, *and with a malignant industry has been employed against the peace, good order, and happiness of society, in our free and prosperous country; but, thanks be to* God, *without producing the pernicious effects which were hoped for by its propagators.*

It seems to me, in my moments of self-complacency, that this extensive biographical work, however inferior in its nature, may in one respect be assimilated





the ODYSSEY. *Amidst a thousand entertaining and tructive episodes the* HERO *is never long out of ht; for they are all in some degree connected with n; and* HE, *in the whole course of the History, is bibited by the Authour for the best advantage of his aders:*

—Quid virtus et quid sapientia possit,
Utile proposuit nobis exemplar Ulyssen.

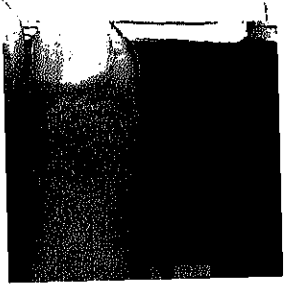
Should there be any cold-blooded and morose mortals ho really dislike this Book, I will give them a story apply. When the great DUKE *of* MARLBOROUGH, *companied by* LORD CADOGAN, *was one day recon-itring the army in Flanders, a heavy rain came on, d they both called for their cloaks.* LORD CADO-N'S *servant, a good humoured alert lad, brought Lordship's in a minute. The Duke's servant, a y sulky dog, was so sluggish, that his Grace being et to the skin, reproved him, and had for answer ith a grunt, "I came as fast as I could;" upon hich the Duke calmly said,—"* CADOGAN, *I would not for a thousand pounds have that fellow's emper."*

There are some men, I believe, who have, or think ey have, a very small share of vanity. Such may eak of their literary fame in a decorous style of dif-ence. But I confess, that I am so formed by nature d by habit, that to restrain the effusion of delight, on ving obtained such fame, to me would be truly pain-l. Why then should I suppress it? Why "out the abundance of the heart" should I not speak? et me then mention with a warm, but no insolent ultation, that I have been regaled with spontaneous aise of my work by many and various persons

An honourable and reverend friend speaking of the favourable reception of my volumes, even in the circles of fashion and elegance, said to me, "you have made them all talk Johnson."—Yes, I may add, I have Johnsonised *the land; and I trust they will not only* talk, *but* think, *Johnson.*

To enumerate those to whom I have been thus indebted, would be tediously ostentatious. I cannot however but name one, whose praise is truly valuable, not only on account of his knowledge and abilities, but on account of the magnificent, yet dangerous embassy, in which he is now employed, which makes every thing that relates to him peculiarly interesting. LORD MACARTNEY *favoured me with his own copy of my book, with a number of notes, of which I have availed myself. On the first leaf I found in his Lordship's hand-writing, an inscription of such high commendation, that even I, vain as I am, cannot prevail on myself to publish it.*

[*July* 1, 1793.]



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TO THE THIRD EDITION

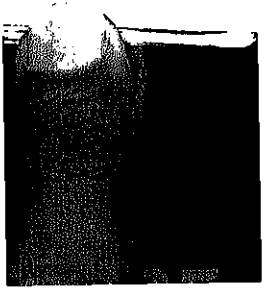
SEVERAL valuable letters, and other curious matter, having been communicated to the Authour too late to be arranged in that chronological order which he had endeavoured uniformly to observe in his work, he was obliged to introduce them in his Second Edition, by way of ADDENDA, *as commodiously as he could. In the present edition they have been distributed in their proper places. In revising his volumes for a new edition, he had pointed out where some of these materials should be inserted; but unfortunately, in the midst of his labours, he was seized with a fever, of which, to the great regret of all his friends, he died on the 19th of May,* 1795. *All the Notes that he had written in the margin of the copy which he had in part revised, are here faithfully preserved; and a few new Notes have been added, principally by some of those friends to whom the Authour in the former editions acknowledged his obligations. Those subscribed with the letter* B. *were communicated by Dr.* BURNEY; *those to which the letters* J. B. *are annexed, by the Rev. J. B.* BLAKEWAY, *of Shrewsbury, to whom Mr.* BOSWELL *acknowledged himself indebted for some judicious remarks on the first edition of his work: and the letters* J. B—.O. *are annexed to some remarks furnished by the Authour's second son, a Student of Brazen-Nose College in Oxford. Some valuable*

all those without any signature, Mr. MALONE is answerable.—Every new remark, not written by the Authour, for the sake of distinction has been enclosed within crotchets; in one instance, however, the printer, by mistake, has affixed this mark to a note relative to the Rev. THOMAS FYSCHE PALMER, (see vol. iv. p. 129,) which was written by Mr. BOSWELL, and therefore ought not to have been thus distinguished.

I have only to add, that the proof-sheets of the present edition not having passed through my hands, I am not answerable for any typographical errours that may be found in it. Having, however, been printed at the very accurate press of Mr. Baldwin, *I make no doubt it will be found not less perfect than the former edition; the greatest care having been taken, by correctness and elegance to do justice to one of the most instructive and entertaining works in the English language.*

EDM. MALONE.

April 8, 1799.



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TO THE FOURTH EDITION

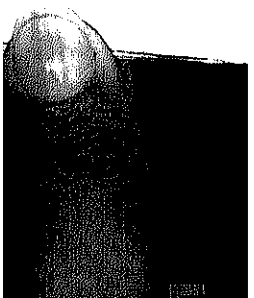
IN this edition are inserted some new letters of which the greater part has been obligingly communicated by the Reverend Doctor VYSE, *Rector of Lambeth. Those written by Dr.* JOHNSON *concerning his mother in her last illness, furnish a new proof of his great piety and tenderness of heart, and therefore cannot but be acceptable to the readers of this very popular work. Some new notes also have been added, which, as well as the observations inserted in the third edition, and the letters now introduced, are carefully included within crotchets, that the authour may not be answerable for any thing which had not the sanction of his approbation. The remarks of his friends are distinguished as formerly, except those of Mr.* MALONE, *to which the letter* M. *is now subjoined. Those to which the letter* K. *is affixed, were communicated by my learned friend, the Reverend Doctor* KEARNEY, *formerly Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin, and now beneficed in the diocese of Raphoe in Ireland, of which he is Archdeacon.*

Of a work which has been before the publick for thirteen years with increasing approbation, and of which near four thousand copies have been dispersed, it is not necessary to say more; yet I cannot refrain from adding, that, highly as it is now estimated, it

extraordinary man, whose wit and wisdom are here recorded, shall be viewed at a still greater distance; and the instruction and entertainment they afford, will at once produce reverential gratitude, admiration, and delight.

E. M.

June 20, 1804.



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TO THE FIFTH EDITION

IN this fifth edition some errours of the press, which had crept into the text and notes, in consequence of repeated impressions, have been corrected. Two letters written by Dr. JOHNSON, and several new notes, have been added; by which, it is hoped, this valuable work is still further improved.

E. M.

January 1, 1807.

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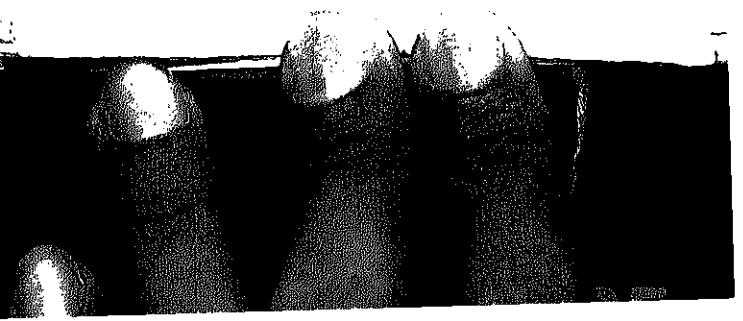
TO THE SIXTH EDITION

GREAT pains have been taken to make this sixth edition accurate, in point of typography. With this view the entire work has been read over by the authour's second son, JAMES BOSWELL, of the Inner Temple, Esq.; by which means many errours of the press, occasioned by repeated impressions, have been discovered. All these have been carefully amended.—Several new notes and some letters have been added; and in the Index,—a very useful appendage to a book containing so much miscellaneous and unconnected matter,—many new articles have been inserted.

By these improvements, the present impression has been rendered the amplest, and it is hoped, will be found the most correct edition of this valuable work, which has yet appeared.

E. M.

FOLEY-PLACE, May 2, 1811.



A CHRONOLOGICAL CATALOGUE

OF THE

ROSE WORKS[1] OF SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

[N. B. To those which he himself acknowledged is added *acknowl.* To those which may be fully believed be his from internal evidence, is added *intern. evid.*]

35. A BRIDGEMENT and translation of Lobo's Voyage to Abyssinia. *acknowl.*

38. Part of a translation of Father Paul Sarpi's History of the Council of Trent. *acknowl.*

[N. B. As this work, after some sheets were printed, ddenly stopped, I know not whether any part of it is ow to be found.]

FOR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

Preface. *intern. evid.*

Life of Father Paul. *acknowl.*

39. A complete vindication of the Licenser of the Stage from the malicious and scandalous aspersions of Mr. Brooke, authour of Gustavus Vasa. *acknowl.*

Marmor Norfolciense: or, an Essay on an ancient prophetical inscription in monkish rhyme, lately discovered near Lynne in Norfolk: by PROBUS BRITANNICUS. *acknowl.*

[1] I do not here include his Poetical Works; *for, excepting his* tin Translation of Pope's Messiah, his London, and his Vanity of man Wishes imitated from Juvenal; his Prologue on the opening Drury Lane Theatre by Mr. Garrick, and his Irene, a Tragedy, by are very numerous, and in general short; and I have promised complete edition of them, in which I shall with the utmost care certain their authenticity, and illustrate them with notes and ious readings.

Address to the Reader. *intern. evid.*
Appeal to the Publick in behalf of the Editor. *intern. evid.*
Considerations on the case of Dr. Trapp's Sermons; a plausible attempt to prove that an authour's work may be abridged without injuring his property. *acknowl.*

1740. FOR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

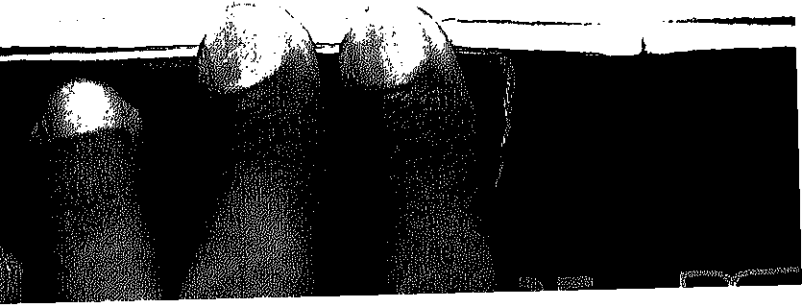
Preface. *intern. evid.*
Life of Admiral Drake. *acknowl.*
Life of Admiral Blake. *acknowl.*
Life of Philip Barretier. *acknowl.*
Essay on Epitaphs. *acknowl.*

1741. FOR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

Preface. *intern. evid.*
A free translation of the Jests of Hierocles, with an introduction. *intern. evid.*
Debate on the *Humble Petition and Advice* of the Rump Parliament to Cromwell in 1657, to assume the Title of King; abridged, methodized and digested. *intern. evid.*
Translation of Abbe Guyon's Dissertation on the Amazons. *intern. evid.*
Translation of Fontenelle's Panegyrick on Dr. Morin. *intern. evid.*

1742. FOR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

Preface. *intern. evid.*
Essay on the Account of the Conduct of the Duchess of Marlborough. *acknowl.*
An Account of the Life of Peter Burman. *acknowl.*
The Life of Sydenham, afterwards prefixed to Dr. Swan's Edition of his Works. *acknowl.*
Proposals for printing Bibliotheca Harleiana, or a Catalogue of the Library of the Earl of Oxford,



oks were written by him. *acknowl.*
ement, entitled, Foreign History. *intern.*
id.
in the description of China, from the French
Du Halde. *intern. evid.*
tion to Dr. Mead of Dr. James's Medicinal
ictionary. *intern. evid.*

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

2. *intern. evid.*
ientary Debates under the name of Debates
the Senate of Lilliput, from Nov. 19, 1740,
Feb. 23, 1742-3, inclusive. *acknowl.*
ferations on the Dispute between Crousaz
id Warburton on Pope's Essay on Man.
tern. evid.
ter, announcing that the Life of Mr. Savage
as speedily to be published by a person who
as favoured with his Confidence. *intern. evid.*
tisement for Osborne concerning the Harleian
Catalogue. *intern. evid.*
f Richard Savage. *acknowl.*
e to the Harleian Miscellany. *acknowl.*

OR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

ce. *intern. evid.*
Manccus Observations on the Tragedy of
Macbeth, with remarks on Sir T. H.'s (Sir
Thomas Hanmer's) Edition of Shakspeare,
and proposals for a new Edition of that Poet.
cknowl.
for a Dictionary of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE,
ddressed to Philip Dormer, Earl of Chester-
field. *acknowl.*

OR THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

of Roscommon. *acknowl.*
ign History, November. *intern. evid.*

Preface. *acknowl.*

Vision of Theodore the Hermit. *acknowl.*

1750. The RAMBLER, the first Paper of which was published 20th of March this year, and the last 17th of March, 1752, the day on which Mrs. Johnson died.[1] *acknowl.*

Letter in the General Advertiser to excite the attention of the Publick to the Performance of Comus, which was next day to be acted at Drury-Lane Playhouse for the Benefit of Milton's Granddaughter. *acknowl.*

Preface and Postscript to Lauder's Pamphlet, entitled, 'An Essay on Milton's Use and Imitation of the Moderns in his Paradise Lost.' *acknowl.*

1751. Life of Cheynel, in the Miscellany called "The Student." *acknowl.*

Letter for Lauder, addressed to the Reverend Dr. John Douglas, acknowledging his Fraud concerning Milton in terms of suitable Contrition. *acknowl.*

Dedication to the Earl of Middlesex, of Mrs. Charlotte Lennox's "Female Quixotte." *intern. evid.*

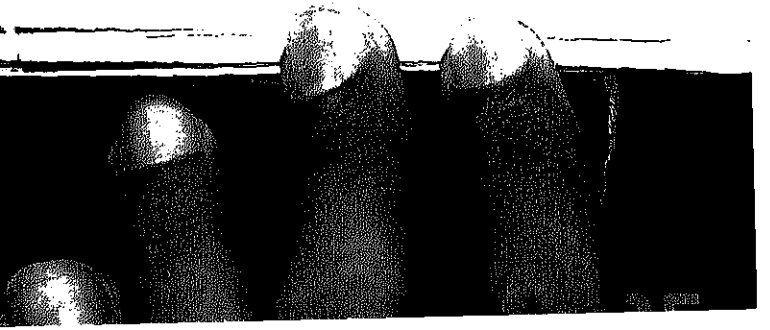
1753. Dedication to John Earl of Orrery, of Shakspeare Illustrated, by Mrs. Charlotte Lennox. *acknowl.*

During this and the following year he wrote and gave to his much loved friend Dr. Bathurst the Papers in the Adventurer, signed T. *acknowl.*

1754. Life of Edw. Cave in the Gentleman's Magazine. *acknowl.*

1755. A DICTIONARY, with a Grammar and History, of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE. *acknowl.*

[1] [This is a mistake. The last number of the Rambler appeared on the *fourteenth* of March, three days before Mrs. Johnson died. See *post*, 1750.—M.]



tions of the Magnetical Needle, with a Table of the Variations at the most remarkable Cities in Europe, from the year 1660 to 1860. *acknowl.* This he wrote for Mr. Zachariah Williams, an ingenious ancient Welsh Gentleman, father of Mrs. Anna Williams, whom he for many years kindly lodged in his House. It was published with a Translation into Italian by Signor Baretti. In a Copy of it which he presented to the Bodleian Library at Oxford, is pasted a character of the late Mr. Zachariah Williams, plainly written by Johnson. *intern. evid.*

1756. An Abridgement of his Dictionary. *acknowl.*

Several Essays in the Universal Visiter, which there is some difficulty in ascertaining. All that are marked with two Asterisks have been ascribed to him, although I am confident from internal Evidence, that we should except from these "The Life of Chaucer," "Reflections on the State of Portugal," and "An Essay on Architecture:" And from the same Evidence I am confident that he wrote "Further Thoughts on Agriculture," and "A Dissertation on the State of Literature and Authours." The Dissertation on the Epitaphs written by Pope he afterwards acknowledged, and added to his "Idler."

Life of Sir Thomas Browne prefixed to a new Edition of his Christian Morals. *acknowl.*

In the LITERARY MAGAZINE: or, UNIVERSAL REVIEW, which began in January 1756.

His ORIGINAL ESSAYS are,

The Preliminary Address. *intern. evid.*

An Introduction to the Political State of Great Britain. *intern. evid.*

Remarks on the Militia Bill. *intern. evid.*

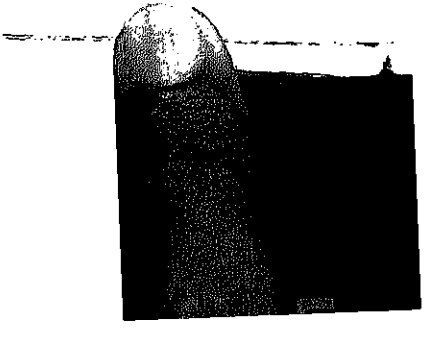
Observations on the Present State of [illegible]. *evid.*

Memoirs of Frederick III. King of Prussia. *intern. evid.*

In the same MAGAZINE his REVIEWS are of the following Books: "Birch's History of the Royal Society." — "Browne's Christian Morals."—"Warton's Essay on the Writings and Genius of Pope, Vol. I."—"Hampton's Translation of Polybius."—"Sir Isaac Newton's Arguments in proof of a Deity."—"Borlase's History of the Isles of Scilly."—"Home's Experiments on Bleaching."—"Browne's History of Jamaica."—"Hales on Distilling Sea Waters, Ventilators in Ships, and curing an ill Taste in Milk."—"Lucas's Essay on Waters."—"Keith's Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops."—"Philosophical Transactions, Vol. XLIX."—"Miscellanies by Elizabeth Harrison."—"Evans's Map and Account of the Middle Colonies in America."—"The Cadet, a Military Treatise."—"The Conduct of the Ministry relating to the present War impartially examined." *intern. evid.*

"Mrs. Lennox's Translation of Sully's Memoirs.'—"Letter on the Case of Admiral Byng."—"Appeal to the People concerning Admiral Byng."—"Hanway's Eight Days' Journey, and Essay on Tea."—"Some further Particulars in Relation to the Case of Admiral Byng, by a gentleman of Oxford." *acknowl.*

Mr. Jonas Hanway having written an angry Answer to the Review of his Essay on Tea, Johnson in the same Collection made a reply to it. *acknowl.* This is the only Instance, it is believed, when he condescended to take Notice of any Thing that had been written against him; and here his chief Intention seems to have been to make sport.



Draughts. *acknowl.*

Introduction to the London Chronicle, an Evening Paper which still subsists with deserved credit. *acknowl.*

Speech on the Subject of an address to the Throne after the Expedition to Rochefort: delivered by one of his Friends in some publick Meeting: it is printed in the Gentleman's Magazine for October 1785. *intern. evid.*

The first two Paragraphs of the Preface to Sir William Chambers's Designs of Chinese Buildings, &c. *acknowl.*

THE IDLER, which began April 5, in this year, and was continued till April 5, 1760. *acknowl.*

An Essay on the Bravery of the English Common Soldiers was added to it, when published in Volumes. *acknowl.*

Rasselas Prince of Abyssinia, a Tale. *acknowl.*

Advertisement for the Proprietors of the Idler against certain Persons who pirated those Papers as they came out singly in a Newspaper called the Universal Chronicle, or Weekly Gazette. *intern. evid.*

For Mrs. Charlotte Lennox's English Version of Brumoy, — "A Dissertation on the Greek Comedy," and the General Conclusion of the Book. *intern. evid.*

Introduction to the World Displayed, a Collection of Voyages and Travels. *acknowl.*

Three Letters in the Gazetteer, concerning the best plan for Blackfriars Bridge. *acknowl.*

Address of the Painters to George III. on his Accession to the Throne. *intern. evid.*

Dedication of Baretti's Italian and English Dictionary to the Marquis of Abreu, then Envoy-Extraordinary from Spain at the Court of Great-Britain. *intern. evid.*

Review in the Gentleman's Magazine, of Mr. Tytler's acute and able Vindication of Mary Queen of Scots. *acknowl.*

merce. *acknowl.*

Corrections and Improvements for Mr. Gwyn the Architect's Pamphlet, entitled "Thoughts on the Coronation of George III." *acknowl.*

1762. Dedication to the King, of the Reverend Dr. Kennedy's Complete System of Astronomical Chronology unfolding the Scriptures, Quarto Edition. *acknowl.*

Preface to the Catalogue of the Artist's Exhibition. *intern. evid.*

1763. Character of Collins in the Poetical Calendar, published by Fawkes and Woty. *acknowl.*

Dedication to the Earl of Shaftesbury of the edition of Roger Ascham's English Works, published by the Reverend Mr. Bennet. *acknowl.*

The Life of Ascham, also prefixed to that edition. *acknowl.*

Review of Telemachus, a Masque, by the Rev. George Graham, of Eton College, in the Critical Review. *acknowl.*

Dedication to the Queen of Mr. Hoole's Translation of Tasso. *acknowl.*

Account of the Detection of the Imposture of the Cock-Lane Ghost, published in the News-papers and Gentleman's Magazine. *acknowl.*

1764. Part of a Review of Grainger's "Sugar Cane, a Poem," in the London Chronicle. *acknowl.*

Review of Goldsmith's Traveller, a Poem, in the Critical Review. *acknowl.*

1765. The Plays of William Shakspeare, in eight volumes, 8vo. with Notes. *acknowl.*

1766. The Fountains, a Fairy Tale, in Mrs. Williams's Miscellanies. *acknowl.*

1767. Dedication to the King of Mr. Adams's Treatise on the Globes. *acknowl.*

1769. Character of the Reverend Mr. Zachariah Mudge, in the London Chronicle. *acknowl.*

1770. The False Alarm. *acknowl.*



Falkland's Islands. *acknowl.*

72. Defence of a Schoolmaster; dictated to me for the House of Lords. *acknowl.*

Argument in Support of the Law of *Vicious Intromission*; dictated to me for the Court of Session in Scotland. *acknowl.*

73. Preface to Maclean's "Dictionary of Ancient Geography." *acknowl.*

Argument in Favour of the Rights of Lay Patrons; dictated to me for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. *acknowl.*

74. The Patriot. *acknowl.*

75. A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland. *acknowl.*

Proposals for publishing the Works of Mrs. Charlotte Lennox, in Three Volumes Quarto. *acknowl.*

Preface to Baretti's Easy Lessons in Italian and English. *interm. evid.*

Taxation no Tyranny; an Answer to the Resolutions and Address of the American Congress. *acknowl.*

Argument on the Case of Dr. Memis; dictated to me for the Court of Session in Scotland. *acknowl.*

Argument to prove that the corporation of Stirling was corrupt; dictated to me for the House of Lords. *acknowl.*

76. Argument in Support of the Right of immediate, and personal reprehension from the Pulpit; dictated to me. *acknowl.*

Proposals for publishing an Analysis of the Scotch Celtick Language, by the Reverend William Shaw. *acknowl.*

77. Dedication to the King of the Posthumous Works of Dr. Pearce, Bishop of Rochester. *acknowl.*

Additions to the Life and Character of that Prelate; prefixed to those Works. *acknowl.*

Various Papers and Letters in Favour of the Reverend Dr. Dodd. *acknowl.*

80. Advertisement for his Friend Mr. Thrale to the



The first Paragraph of Mr. Thomas Davies's Life of Garrick. *acknowl.*

1781. Prefaces, Biographical and Critical, to the works of the most eminent English Poets; afterwards published with the Title of the Lives of the English Poets. *acknowl.*

Argument on the Importance of the Registration of Deeds; dictated to me for an Election Committee of the House of Commons. *acknowl.*

On the Distinction between TORY and WHIG; dictated to me. *acknowl.*

On Vicarious Punishments, and the great Propitiation for the Sins of the World, by JESUS CHRIST; dictated to me. *acknowl.*

Argument in favour of Joseph Knight, an African Negro, who claimed his Liberty in the Court of Session in Scotland, and obtained it; dictated to me. *acknowl.*

Defence of Mr. Robertson, Printer of the Caledonian Mercury, against the Society of Procurators in Edinburgh, for having inserted in his Paper a ludicrous Paragraph against them; demonstrating that it was not an injurious Libel; dictated to me. *acknowl.*

1782. The greatest part, if not the whole, of a Reply, by the Reverend Mr. Shaw, to a Person at Edinburgh, of the Name of Clarke, refuting his arguments for the authenticity of the Poems published by Mr. James Macpherson as Translations from Ossian. *intern. evid.*

1784. List of the Authours of the Universal History, deposited in the British Museum, and printed in the Gentleman's Magazine for December, this year. *acknowl.*

VARIOUS YEARS.

Letters to Mrs. Thrale. *acknowl.*

Prayers and Meditations, which he delivered to the Rev. Mr. Strahan, enjoining him to publish them. *acknowl.*



World by the Rev. Samuel Hayes, A.M. *ittern. evid.*[1]

the number and variety of the Prose Works *Ordinary man, which* I have been able to dis- ain at liberty to mention; but we ought to nd, that there must undoubtedly have been which are yet concealed; and we may add unt, the numerous Letters which he wrote, *considerable part are yet unpublished.* It at those persons in whose possession they are, the world with them.

JAMES BOSWELL.

List of the Writings of Dr. Johnson, Mr. Alexander ith considerable probability, suggests to me that we may wing:

IN THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

er's Proposals for printing the *Adamus Exul* of Gro- is. Vol. 20. p. 404.
ess to the Publick, concerning Miss Williams's Miscel- nies. Vol. 20. p. 428.
ce.
:e of Mr. Edward Cave's death, inserted in the last ge of the Index.

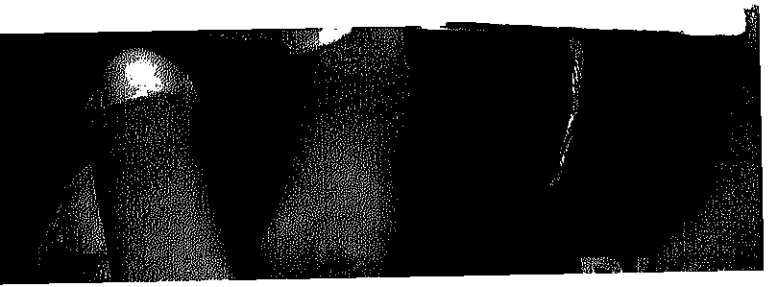
IN THE LITERARY MAGAZINE.

servations on the foregoing letter;" i.e. A letter on the merican Colonies. Vol. 1. p. 65.—M.]

"After my death I wish no other herald,
No other speaker of my living actions,
To keep mine honour from corruption,
But such an honest chronicler as Griffith." [1]

SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*

[1] See Dr. Johnson's letter to Mrs. Thrale, dated Ostick in Skie, September 30, 1773: "Boswell writes a regular Journal of our travels, which I think contains as much of what I say and do, as of all other occurrences together; '*for such a faithful chronicler* is *Griffith.*'"



The LIFE of

AMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

The author's arduous task

TO write the Life of him who excelled all mankind in writing the lives of others, and who, hether we consider his extraordinary endowments, his various works, has been equalled by few in ny age, is an arduous, and may be reckoned in me presumptuous task.

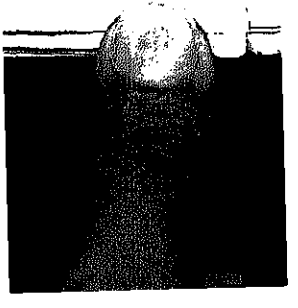
Had Dr. Johnson written his own Life, in conrmity with the opinion which he has given,[1] that very man's life may be best written by himself; id he employed in the preservation of his own story, that clearness of narration and elegance of nguage in which he has embalmed so many emient persons, the world would probably have had ie most perfect example of biography that was ver exhibited. But although he at different times, a desultory manner, committed to writing many rticulars of the progress of his mind and fortunes, e never had persevering diligence enough to form em into a regular composition. Of these memoals a few have been preserved; but the greater

[1] Idler, No. 84.

his friendship for upwards of twenty years; as I had the scheme of writing his life constantly in view; as he was well apprised of this circumstance, and from time to time obligingly satisfied my enquiries, by communicating to me the incidents of his early years; as I acquired a facility in recollecting, and was very assiduous in recording, his conversation, of which the extraordinary vigour and vivacity constituted one of the first features of his character; and as I have spared no pains in obtaining materials concerning him, from every quarter where I could discover that they were to be found, and have been favoured with the most liberal communications by his friends; I flatter myself that few biographers have entered upon such a work as this, with more advantages; independent of literary abilities, in which I am not vain-enough to compare myself with some great names who have gone before me in this kind of writing.

Since my work was announced, several Lives and Memoirs of Dr. Johnson have been published, the most voluminous of which is one compiled for the booksellers of London, by Sir John Hawkins, Knight,[1] a man, whom, during my long intimacy

[1] The greatest part of this book was written while Sir John Hawkins was alive: and I avow, that one object of my strictures was to make him feel some compunction for his illiberal treatment of Dr. Johnson. Since his decease, I have suppressed several of my remarks upon his work. But though I would not "war with the dead" *offensively*, I think it necessary to be strenuous in *defence* of my illustrious friend, which I cannot be, with-



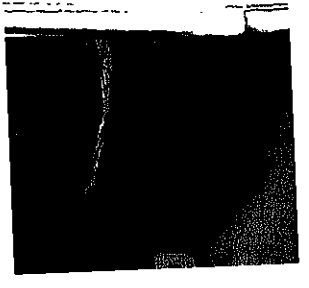
Dr. Johnson, I never saw in his company, I criticised
k, but once, and I am sure not above twice.
nson might have esteemed him for his decent,
gious demeanour, and his knowledge of books
literary history; but from the rigid formality
is manners, it is evident that they never could
e lived together with companionable ease and
iliarity; nor had Sir John Hawkins that nice
ception which was necessary to mark the finer
less obvious parts of Johnson's character. His
g appointed one of his executors, gave him an
ortunity of taking possession of such fragments
diary and other papers as were left; of which,
ore delivering them up to the residuary legatee,
ose property they were, he endeavoured to ex-
t the substance. In this he has not been very
cessful, as I have found upon a perusal of those
ers, which have been since transferred to me.
John Hawkins's ponderous labours, I must
nowledge, exhibit a *farrago*, of which a con-
rable portion is not devoid of entertainment to
lovers of literary gossiping; but besides its being
elled out with long unnecessary extracts from
ious works, (even one of several leaves from
borne's Harleian Catalogue, and those not com-

strong animadversions upon a writer who has greatly
ured him. Let me add, that though I doubt I should
have been very prompt to gratify Sir John Hawkins
h any compliment in his life-time, I do now frankly
nowledge, that, in my opinion, his volume, however
lequate and improper as a life of Dr. Johnson, and
wever discredited by unpardonable inaccuracies in
er respects, contains a collection of curious anecdotes
observations, which few men but its authour could
e brought together.

the statement of facts, as in so solemn an authour is hardly excusable, and certainly makes his narrative very unsatisfactory. But what is still worse, there is throughout the whole of it a dark uncharitable cast, by which the most unfavourable construction is put upon almost every circumstance in the character and conduct of my illustrious friend; who, I trust, will, by a true and fair delineation, be vindicated both from the injurious misrepresentations of this authour, and from the slighter aspersions of a lady who once lived in great intimacy with him.

There is, in the British Museum, a letter from Bishop Warburton to Dr. Birch, on the subject of biography; which, though I am aware it may expose me to a charge of artfully raising the value of my own work, by contrasting it with that of which I have spoken, is so well conceived and expressed, that I cannot refrain from here inserting it:

"I shall endeavour, (says Dr. Warburton,) to give you what satisfaction I can in any thing you want to be satisfied in any subject of Milton, and am extremely glad you intend to write his life. Almost all the life-writers we have had before Toland and Desmaiseaux, are indeed strange insipid creatures; and yet I had rather read the worst of them, than be obliged to go through with this of Milton's, or the other's life of Boileau, where there is such a dull, heavy succession of long quotations of disinteresting passages, that it makes their method quite nauseous. But the verbose, tasteless French-



Boswell explains his method

nan seems to lay it down as a principle, that every fe must be a book, and what's worse, it proves a ook without a life; for what do we know of Boieau, after all his tedious stuff? You are the only ne, (and I speak it without a compliment,) that by he vigour of your stile and sentiments, and the real mportance of your materials, have the art, (which one would imagine no one could have missed,) of dding agreements to the most agreeable subject in he world, which is literary history." [1]

"Nov. 24, 1737."

Instead of melting down my materials into one mass, and constantly speaking in my own person, by which I might have appeared to have more merit in the execution of the work, I have resolved to adopt and enlarge upon the excellent plan of Mr. Mason, n his Memoirs of Gray. Wherever narrative is necessary to explain, connect, and supply, I furnish it to the best of my abilities; but in the chronological series of Johnson's life, which I trace as distinctly as I can, year by year, I produce, wherever it is in my power, his own minutes, letters, or conversation, being convinced that this mode is more lively, and will make my readers better acquainted with him, than even most of those were who actually knew him, but could know him only partially; whereas there is here an accumulation of intelligence from various points, by which his character is more fully understood and illustrated.

Indeed I cannot conceive a more perfect mode of writing any man's life, than not only relating all

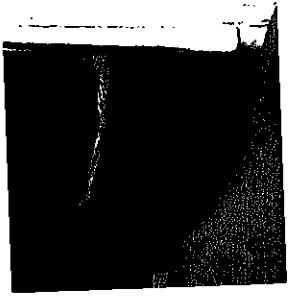
[1] Brit. Mus. 4320, Ayscough's Catal. Sloane MSS.

gyrick

to see him live, and to "live o'er each scene" with him, as he actually advanced through the several stages of his life. Had his other friends been as diligent and ardent as I was, he might have been almost entirely preserved. As it is, I will venture to say that he will be seen in this work more completely than any man who has ever yet lived.

And he will be seen as he really was; for I profess to write, not his panegyrick, which must be all praise, but his Life; which, great and good as he was, must not be supposed to be entirely perfect. To be as he was, is indeed subject of panegyrick enough to any man in this state of being; but in every picture there should be shade as well as light, and when I delineate him without reserve, I do what he himself recommended, both by his precept and his example.

"If the biographer writes from personal knowledge, and makes haste to gratify the publick curiosity, there is danger lest his interest, his fear, his gratitude, or his tenderness, overpower his fidelity, and tempt him to conceal, if not to invent. There are many who think it an act of piety to hide the faults or failings of their friends, even when they can no longer suffer by their detection; we therefore see whole ranks of characters adorned with uniform panegyrick, and not to be known from one another but by extrinsick and casual circumstances. 'Let me remember, (says Hale,) when I find myself inclined to pity a criminal, that there is likewise a pity due to the country.' If we owe regard to



e memory of the dead, there is yet more respect be paid to knowledge, to virtue, and to truth." [1] What I consider as the peculiar value of the follow- g work, is, the quantity it contains of Johnson's nversation; which is universally acknowledged have been eminently instructive and entertaining; d of which the specimens that I have given upon former occasion, have been received with so much probation, that I have good grounds for supposing at the world will not be indifferent to more ample mmunications of a similar nature.

Johnson's conversation

That the conversation of a celebrated man, if his lents have been exerted in conversation, will best splay his character, is, I trust, too well established the judgement of mankind, to be at all shaken by sneering observation of Mr. Mason, in his Memoirs Mr. William Whitehead, in which there is lite- lly no *Life*, but a mere dry narrative of facts. I o not think it was quite necessary to attempt a epreciation of what is universally esteemed, be- ause it was not to be found in the immediate bject of the ingenious writer's pen; for in truth, om a man so still and so tame, as to be contented pass many years as the domestick companion of superannuated lord and lady, conversation could more be expected, than from a Chinese mandarin a chimney-piece, or the fantastick figures on a lt leather skreen.

If authority be required, let us appeal to Plu- rch, the prince of ancient biographers. Οὔτε αῖς ἐπιφανεστάταις πράξεσι πάντως ἔνεστι δήλωσις ρετῆς ἢ κακίας, ἀλλὰ πράγμα βραχὺ πολλάκις, αὶ ῥῆμα, καὶ παιδιά τις ἔμφασιν ἤθους ἐποίησεν

[1] Rambler, No. 60.

virtues or vices may be best discerned; but very often an action of small note, a short saying, or a jest, shall distinguish a person's real character more than the greatest sieges, or the most important battles." [1]

To this may be added the sentiments of the very man whose life I am about to exhibit. "The business of the biographer is often to pass slightly over those performances and incidents which produce vulgar greatness, to lead the thoughts into domestick privacies, and display the minute details of daily life, where exteriour appendages are cast aside, and men excel each other only by prudence and by virtue. The account of Thuanus is with great propriety said by its authour to have been written, that it might lay open to posterity the private and familiar character of that man, *cujus ingenium et candorem ex ipsius scriptis sunt olim semper miraturi*, whose candour and genius will to the end of time be by his writings preserved in admiration.

"There are many invisible circumstances, which whether we read as enquirers after natural or moral knowledge, whether we intend to inlarge our science or increase our virtue, are more important than publick occurrences. Thus Sallust, the great master of nature, has not forgot in his account of Catiline to remark, that his walk was now quick, and again slow, as an indication of a mind revolving with violent commotion. Thus the story of

[1] Plutarch's Life of Alexander.—Langhorne's Translation.



n appointment, he expected not only the hour, but he minute to be fixed, that the day might not run ut in the idleness of suspense; and all the plans nd enterprises of De Wit are now of less importnce to the world than that part of his personal haracter, which represents him as careful of his ealth, and negligent of his life.

minute details

"But biography has often been allotted to writers, vho seem very little acquainted with the nature of heir task, or very negligent about the performance. They rarely afford any other account than might e collected from publick papers, but imagine hemselves writing a life, when they exhibit a hronological series of actions or preferments; and ave so little regard to the manners or behaviour of heir heroes, that more knowledge may be gained of man's real character, by a short conversation with ne of his servants, than from a formal and studied arrative, begun with his pedigree, and ended with is funeral.——

"There are indeed, some natural reasons why nese narratives are often written by such as were ot likely to give much instruction or delight, and vhy most accounts of particular persons are barren nd useless. If a life be delayed till interest and nvy are at an end, we may hope for impartiality, ut must expect little intelligence; for the incidents vhich give excellence to biography are of a vola- le and evanescent kind, such as soon escape the nemory, and are rarely transmitted by tradition. We now how few can pourtray a living acquaintance, xcept by his most prominent and observable parti-

ticipated

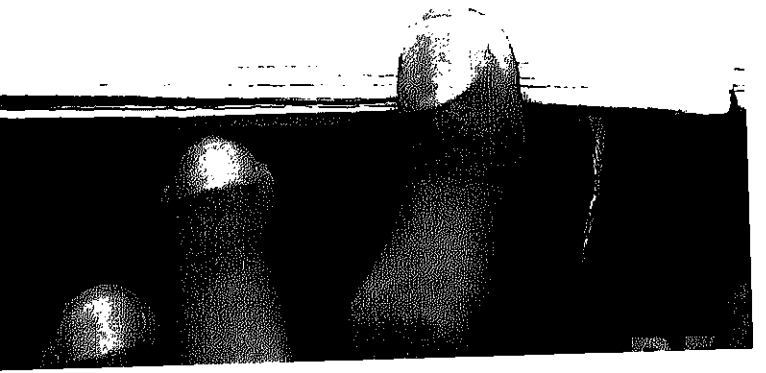
how soon a succession of copies will lose all resemblance of the original." [1]

I am fully aware of the objections which may be made to the minuteness on some occasions of my detail of Johnson's conversation, and how happily it is adapted for the petty exercise of ridicule, by men of superficial understanding, and ludicrous fancy; but I remain firm and confident in my opinion, that minute particulars are frequently characteristick, and always amusing, when they relate to a distinguished man. I am therefore exceedingly unwilling that any thing, however slight, which my illustrious friend thought it worth his while to express, with any degree of point, should perish. For this almost superstitious reverence, I have found very old and venerable authority, quoted by our great modern prelate, Secker, in whose tenth sermon there is the following passage:

"*Rabbi David Kimchi*, a noted Jewish Commentator, who lived about five hundred years ago, explains that passage in the first Psalm, *His leaf also shall not wither*, from Rabbins yet older than himself, thus: That *even the idle talk*, so he expresses it, *of a good man ought to be regarded*; the most superfluous things he saith are always of some value. And other ancient authours have the same phrase, nearly in the same sense."

Of one thing I am certain, that considering how highly the small portion which we have of the table-talk and other anecdotes of our celebrated

[1] Rambler, No. 60.



many of Johnson's sayings, than too few; as from the diversity of dispositions it known with certainty beforehand, whether seem trifling to some, and perhaps to the himself, may not be most agreeable to id the greater number that an authour can any degree, the more pleasure does there benevolent mind.

ose who are weak enough to think this a ; task, and the time and labour which have oted to it misemployed, I shall content ith opposing the authority of the greatest my age, JULIUS CÆSAR, of whom Bacon that "in his book of Apothegms which cted, we see that he esteemed it more make himself but a pair of tables, to take and pithy words of others, than to have id of his own to be made an apothegm or ."[1]

g said thus much by way of introduction, t the following pages to the candour of the

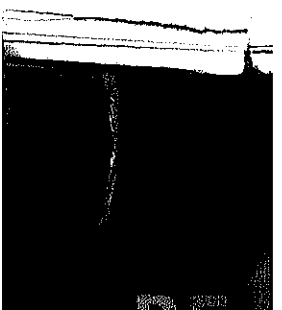
L. JOHNSON was born at Lichfield, in Staf-, on the 18th of September, N. S. 1709; nitiation into the Christian church was not for his baptism is recorded, in the register Mary's parish in that city, to have been d on the day of his birth: His father is ed *Gentleman*, a circumstance of which an panegyrist has praised him for not being

[1] Bacon's Advancement of Learning, Book I.

those who could not boast of gentility. His father was Michael Johnson, a native of Derbyshire, of obscure extraction, who settled in Lichfield as a bookseller and stationer. His mother was Sarah Ford, descended of an ancient race of substantial yeomanry in Warwickshire. They were well advanced in years when they married, and never had more than two children, both sons; Samuel, their first-born, who lived to be the illustrious character whose various excellence I am to endeavour to record, and Nathanael, who died in his twenty-fifth year.[1]

Mr. Michael Johnson was a man of a large and robust body, and of a strong and active mind; yet, as in the most solid rocks veins of unsound substance are often discovered, there was in him a mixture of that disease, the nature of which eludes the most minute enquiry, though the effects are well known to be a weariness of life, an unconcern about those things which agitate the greater part of mankind, and a general sensation of gloomy wretchedness. From him then his son inherited, with some other qualities, "a vile melancholy," which in his too

[1] [Nathanael was born in 1712, and died in 1737. Their father, Michael Johnson, was born at Cubley in Derbyshire, in 1656, and died at Lichfield in 1731, at the age of seventy-six. Sarah Ford, his wife, was born at King's-Norton, in the county of Worcester, in 1669, and died at Lichfield, in January 1759, in her ninetieth year.—King's-Norton Dr. Johnson supposed to be in Warwickshire, (see his inscription for his mother's tomb,) but it is in Worcestershire, probably on the confines of the county of Warwick.—M.]



Michael was, however, forced by the narrowness of his circumstances to be very diligent in business, not only in his shop, but by occasionally resorting to several towns in the neighbourhood,[2] some of which were at a considerable distance from Lichfield. At that time booksellers' shops in the provincial towns of England were very rare, so that there was not one even in Birmingham, in which town old Mr. Johnson used to open a shop every market-day. He was a pretty good Latin scholar, and a citizen so creditable as to be made one of the magistrates of Lichfield; and, being a man of good sense, and skill in his trade, he acquired a reasonable share of wealth, of which however he afterwards lost the greatest part, by *engaging unsuccessfully in* a manufacture of parchment. He was a zealous high-church man and royalist, and retained his attachment to the unfortunate house of Stuart, though he reconciled himself, by casuistical arguments of expediency and necessity, to take the oaths imposed by the prevailing power.

[1] Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides, Sept. 16.

[2] Extract of a Letter, dated "Trentham, St. Peter's day, 1716," written by the Rev. George Plaxton, Chaplain at that time to Lord Gower, which may serve to show the high estimation in which the Father of our great Moralist was held:—"Johnson, the Lichfield Librarian, is now here; he propagates learning all over this diocese, and advanceth knowledge to its just height; all the Clergy here are his Pupils, and suck all they have from him; Allen cannot make a warrant without his precedent, nor our quondam John Evans draw a recognizance *sine directione Michaelis.*—Gentleman's Magazine, October, 1791.

fordshire, while he served his apprenticeship there, conceived a violent passion for him; and though it met with no favourable return, followed him to Lichfield, where she took lodgings opposite to the house in which he lived, and indulged her hopeless flame. When he was informed that it so preyed upon her mind that her life was in danger, he with a generous humanity went to her and offered to marry her, but it was then too late: Her vital power was exhausted; and she actually exhibited one of the very rare instances of dying for love. She was buried in the cathedral of Lichfield; and he, with a tender regard, placed a stone over her grave with this inscription:

Here lies the body of
Mrs. Elizabeth Blaney, a stranger:
She departed this life
20 of September, 1694.

Johnson's mother was a woman of distinguished understanding.[1] I asked his old school-fellow, Mr.

[1] [It was not, however, much cultivated, as we may collect from Dr. Johnson's own account of his early years, published by R. Phillips, 8vo. 1805, a work undoubtedly authentick, and which, though short, is curious, and well worthy of perusal. "My father and mother (says Johnson) had not much happiness from each other. They seldom conversed; for my father could not bear to talk of his affairs; and my mother, *being unacquainted with books*, cared not to talk of any thing else. Had my mother been more literate, they had been better companions. She might have sometimes intro-

ood sense to be vain, but she knew her son's alue." Her piety was not inferiour to her under-tanding; and to her must be ascribed those early *mpressions of religion upon the mind of her son,* rom which the world afterwards derived so much enefit. He told me, that he remembered distinctly having had the first notice of Heaven, "a lace to which good people went," and hell, "a lace to which bad people went," communicated to im by her, when a little child in bed with her; nd that it might be the better fixed in his memory, he sent him to repeat it to Thomas Jackson, their an-servant; he not being in the way, this was not one; but there was no occasion for any artificial id for its preservation.

In following so very eminent a man from his radle to his grave, every minute particular, which an throw light on the progress of his mind, is interesting. That he was remarkable, even in his arliest years, may easily be supposed; for to use

uced her unwelcome topick with more success, if she ould have diversified her conversation. *Of business* she ad no distinct conception; and therefore her discourse vas composed only of complaint, fear, and suspicion. Neither of them ever tried to calculate the profits of rade, or the expences of living. My mother concluded hat we were poor, because we lost by some of our trades; ut the truth was, that my father, having in the early art of his life contracted debts, never had trade sufficient o enable him to pay them, and to maintain his family: he got something, but not enough. It was not till about 768, that I thought to calculate the returns of my ather's trade, and by that estimate his probable profits. This, I believe, my parents never did."—M.]

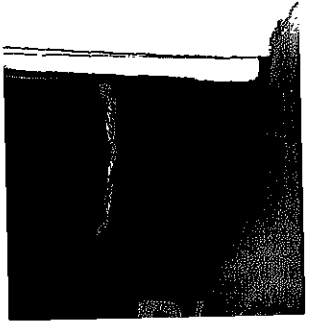
toryism"

discernment, and the ardour of his curiosity, might have been remarked from his infancy, by a diligent observer, there is no reason to doubt. For, there is no instance of any man, whose history has been minutely related, that did not in every part of life discover the same proportion of intellectual vigour."

In all such investigations it is certainly unwise to pay too much attention to incidents which the credulous relate with eager satisfaction, and the more scrupulous or witty enquirer considers only as topicks of ridicule: Yet there is a traditional story of the infant Hercules of toryism, so curiously characteristick, that I shall not withhold it. It was communicated to me in a letter from Miss Mary Adye, of Lichfield.

"When Dr. Sacheverel was at Lichfield, Johnson was not quite three years old. My grandfather Hammond observed him at the cathedral perched upon his father's shoulders, listening and gaping at the much celebrated preacher. Mr. Hammond asked Mr. Johnson how he could possibly think of bringing such an infant to church, and in the midst of so great a croud. He answered, because it was impossible to keep him at home; for, young as he was, he believed he had caught the publick spirit and zeal for Sacheverel, and would have staid for ever in the church, satisfied with beholding him."

Nor can I omit a little instance of that jealous independence of spirit, and impetuosity of temper, which never forsook him. The fact was acknowledged to me by himself, upon the authority of his mother. One day, when the servant who used to



hen so near-sighted, that he was obliged to stoop own on his hands and knees to take a view of the ennel before he ventured to step over it. His chool-mistress, afraid that he might miss his way, r fall into the kennel, or be run over by a cart, llowed him at some distance. He happened to rn about and perceive her. Feeling her careful ttention as an insult to his manliness, he ran back her in a rage, and beat her, as well as his rength would permit.

Of the power of his memory, for which he was ll his life eminent to a degree almost incredible, he following early instance was told me in his resence at Lichfield, in 1776, by his step-daughter, Mrs. Lucy Porter, as related to her by his mother. When he was a child in petticoats, and had learnt read, Mrs. Johnson one morning put the com-non prayer-book into his hands, pointed to the ollect for the day, and said, "Sam, you must et this by heart." She went up stairs, leaving im to study it: but by the time she had reached he second floor, she heard him following her. "What's the matter?" said she. "I can say it," e replied; and repeated it distinctly, though he ould not have read it more than twice.

But there has been another story of his infant recocity generally circulated, and generally be-ieved, the truth of which I am to refute upon his wn authority. It is told,[1] that, when a child of hree years old, he chanced to tread upon a duckling,

[1] Anecdotes of Dr. Johnson, by Hester Lynch Piozzi, . 11. Life of Dr. Johnson, by Sir John Hawkins, p. 6.

An anecdote disproved

the eleventh of a brood, and killed it; upon which, it is said, he dictated to his mother the following epitaph:

"Here lies good master duck,
Whom Samuel Johnson trod on;
If it had liv'd, it had been *good luck*,
For then we'd had an *odd one*."

There is surely internal evidence that this little composition combines in it, what no child of three years old could produce, without an extension of its faculties by immediate inspiration; yet Mrs. Lucy Porter, Dr. Johnson's step-daughter, positively maintained to me, in his presence, that there could be no doubt of the truth of this anecdote, for she had heard it from his mother. So difficult is it to obtain an authentick relation of facts, and such authority may there be for errour; for he assured me, that his father made the verses, and wished to pass them for his child's. He added, "my father was a foolish old man; that is to say, foolish in talking of his children."[1]

[1] This anecdote of the duck, though disproved by internal and external evidence, has nevertheless, upon supposition of its truth, been made the foundation of the following ingenious and fanciful reflections of Miss Seward, amongst the communications concerning Dr. Johnson with which she has been pleased to favour me:—"These infant numbers contain the seeds of those propensities which through his life so strongly marked his character, of that poetick talent which afterwards bore such rich and plentiful fruits; for, excepting his orthographick works, every thing which Dr. Johnson wrote was Poetry, whose essence consists not in numbers, or in jingle, but in the strength and glow of a fancy, to

Young Johnson had the misfortune to be much afflicted with the scrophula, or king's-evil, which disfigured a countenance naturally well formed, and hurt his visual nerves so much, that he did not see at all with one of his eyes, though its appearance was little different from that of the other. There is amongst his prayers, one inscribed "*When my* EYE *was restored to its use*," which ascertains a defect that many of his friends knew he had, though I never perceived it.[2] I supposed him to be only near-sighted; and indeed I must observe, that in no other respect could I discern any defect in his vision; on the contrary, the force of his attention and perceptive quickness made him see and distinguish all manner of objects, whether of nature or of art, with a nicety that is rarely to be found. When he and I were travelling in the Highlands of Scotland, and I pointed out to him a mountain which I observed resembled a cone, he corrected

Johnson's eyesight.

which all the stores of nature and of art stand in prompt administration; and in an eloquence which conveys their blended illustrations in a language 'more tuneable than needs or rhyme or verse to add more harmony.'

"'The above little verses also shew that superstitious bias which 'grew with his growth, and strengthened with his strength,' and, of late years particularly, injured his happiness, by presenting to him the gloomy side of religion, rather than that bright and cheering one which gilds the period of closing life with the light of pious hope."

This is so beautifully imagined, that I would not suppress it. But, like many other theories, it is deduced from a supposed fact, which is, indeed, a fiction.

[1] Prayers and Meditations, p. 27.

[2] [Speaking himself of the imperfection of one of his eyes, he said to Dr. Burney, "the dog was never good for much."—BURNEY.]

Touched by Queen Anne

my inaccuracy, by shewing me, that it was indeed pointed at the top, but that one side of it was larger than the other. And the ladies with whom he was acquainted agree, that no man was more nicely and minutely critical in the elegance of female dress. When I found that he saw the romantick beauties of Islam, in Derbyshire, much better than I did, I told him that he resembled an able performer upon a bad instrument. How false and contemptible then are all the remarks which have been made to the prejudice either of his candour or of his philosophy, founded upon a supposition that he was almost blind. It has been said, that he contracted this grievous malady from his nurse.[1] His mother, yielding to the superstitious notion, which, it is wonderful to think, prevailed so long in this country, as to the virtue of the regal touch; a notion, which our kings encouraged, and to which a man of such enquiry and such judgement as Carte could give credit; carried him to London, where he was actually touched by Queen Anne.[2] Mrs. Johnson indeed, as Mr. Hector informed me, acted by the advice of the celebrated Sir John Floyer, then a

[1] [Such was the opinion of Dr. Swinfen. Johnson's eyes were very soon discovered to be bad, and to relieve them, an issue was cut in his left arm. At the end of ten weeks from his birth, he was taken home from his nurse, "a poor diseased infant, almost blind." See a work, already quoted, entitled "An Account of the life of Dr. Samuel Johnson, from his birth to his eleventh year; written by himself. 8vo. 1805.—M.]

[2] [He was only thirty months old, when he was taken to London to be touched for the evil. During this visit, he tells us, his mother purchased for him a small silver cup and spoon. "The cup," he affectingly adds, "was one of the last pieces of plate which dear Tetty sold, in

physician in Lichfield. Johnson used to talk of this very frankly; and Mrs. Piozzi has preserved his very picturesque description of the scene, as it remained upon his fancy. *Being asked if he could* remember Queen Anne,—"He had (he said) a confused, but somehow a sort of solemn recollection of a lady in diamonds, and a long black hood."[1] This touch, however, was without any effect. I ventured to say to him, in allusion to the political principles in which he was educated, and of which he ever retained some odour, that "his mother had not carried him far enough; she should have taken *him to* ROME." His first school

He was first taught to read English by Dame Oliver, a widow, who kept a school for young children in Lichfield. He told me she could read the black letter, and asked him to *borrow for her, from* his father, a bible in that character. When he was going to Oxford, she came to take leave of him, brought him, in the simplicity of her kindness, a present of gingerbread, and said he was the best scholar she ever had. He delighted in mentioning this early compliment: adding, with a smile, that "this was as high a proof of his merit as he could conceive." His next instructor in English *was a master*, whom, when he spoke of him to me, he familiarly called Tom Brown, who, said he, "published a spelling-book, and dedicated it to the UNIVERSE; but, I fear, no copy of it can now be had."

our distress. I have now the spoon. She bought at the same time two tea-spoons, and till my manhood, she had no more." Ibid.—M.]

[1] Anecdotes, p. 10.

Superiority over his fellows

he exclaimed, in one of Shakspeare's lines a little varied,[1]

"*Rod*, I will honour thee for this thy duty."

That superiority over his fellows, which he maintained with so much dignity in his march through life, was not assumed from vanity and ostentation, but was the natural and constant effect of those extraordinary powers of mind, of which he could not but be conscious by comparison; the intellectual difference, which in other cases of comparison of characters, is often a matter of undecided contest, being as clear in his case as the superiority of stature in some men above others. Johnson did not strut or stand on tip-toe; he only did not stoop. From his earliest years, his superiority was perceived and acknowledged. He was from the beginning Αναξ ανδρῶν, a king of men. His schoolfellow, Mr. Hector, has obligingly furnished me with many particulars of his boyish days; and assured me that he never knew him corrected at school, but for talking and diverting other boys from their business. He seemed to learn by intuition; for though indolence and procrastination were inherent in his constitution, whenever he made an exertion he did more than any one else. In short, he is a memorable instance of what has been often observed, that the boy is the man in miniature: and that the distinguishing characteristicks of each individual are the same, through the whole course of life. His favourites used to receive very

[1] [More than a little. The line is in KING HENRY VI. Part II. act iv. sc. last:

"Sword, I will hallow thee for this thy deed."—M.]

liberal assistance from him; and such was the submission and deference with which he was treated, such the desire to obtain his regard, that three of the boys, of whom Mr. Hector was sometimes one, used to come in the morning as his humble attendants, and carry him to school. One in the middle stooped, while he sat upon his back, and one on each side supported him; and thus he was borne triumphant. Such a proof of the early predominance of intellectual vigour is very remarkable, and does honour to human nature.—Talking to me once himself of his being much distinguished at school, he told me, "they never thought to raise me by comparing me to any one; they never said, Johnson is as good a scholar as such a one; but such a one is as good a scholar as Johnson; and this was said but of one, but of Lowe; and I do not think he was as good a scholar."

Carried to school by the boys

He discovered a great ambition to excel, which roused him to counteract his indolence. He was uncommonly inquisitive; and his memory was so tenacious, that he never forgot any thing that he either heard or read. Mr. Hector remembers having recited to him eighteen verses, which, after a little pause, he repeated *verbatim*, varying only one epithet, by which he improved the line.

He never joined with the other boys in their ordinary diversions: his only amusement was in winter, when he took a pleasure in being drawn upon the ice by a boy barefooted, who pulled him along by a garter fixed round him; no very easy operation, as his size was remarkably large. His defective sight, indeed, prevented him from enjoying the common sports; and he once pleasantly

but Johnson had afterwards the gratification to hear that the old gentleman, who lived to a very advanced age, mentioned it as one of the most memorable events of his life, that "he was *very near* having that great man for his scholar."

He remained at Stourbridge little more than a year, and then he returned home, where he may be said to have loitered, for two years, in a state very unworthy his uncommon abilities. He had already given several proofs of his poetical genius, both in his school-exercises and in other occasional compositions. Of these I have obtained a considerable collection, by the favour of Mr. Wentworth, son of one of his masters, and of Mr. Hector, his school-fellow and friend; from which I select the following specimens:

Translation of Virgil. Pastoral I.

MELIBŒUS.

Now, Tityrus, you, supine and careless laid,
Play on your pipe beneath this beechen shade;
While wretched we about the world must roam,
And leave our pleasing fields and native home,
Here at your ease you sing your amorous flame,
And the wood rings with Amarillis' name.

[1] As was likewise the Bishop of Dromore many years afterwards.

B5
A4

From Virgil and Horace

TITYRUS.

Those blessings, friend, a deity bestow'd,
For I shall never think him less than God;
Oft on his altar shall my firstlings lie,
Their blood the consecrated stones shall dye:
He gave my flocks to graze the flowery meads,
And me to tune at ease th' unequal reeds.

MELIBŒUS.

My admiration only I exprest,
(No spark of envy harbours in my breast)
That, when confusion o'er the country reigns,
To you alone this happy state remains.
Here I, though faint myself, must drive my goats,
Far from their antient fields and humble cots.
This scarce I lead, who left on yonder rock
Two tender kids, the hopes of all the flock.
Had we not been perverse and careless grown,
This dire event by omens was foreshown;
Our trees were blasted by the thunder stroke,
And left-hand crows, from an old hollow oak,
Foretold the coming evil by their dismal croak.

Translation of HORACE. Book I. Ode xxii.

THE man, my friend, whose conscious heart
With virtue's sacred ardour glows,
Nor taints with death the envenom'd dart,
Nor needs the guard of Moorish bows;

Though Scythia's icy cliffs he treads,
Or horrid Africk's faithless sands;
Or where the fam'd Hydaspes spreads
His liquid wealth o'er barbarous lands.

Early translations

For while by Chloe's image charm'd,
Too far in Sabine woods I stray'd;
Me singing, careless and unarm'd,
A grizly wolf surprised, and fled.

No savage more portentous stain'd
Apulia's spacious wilds with gore;
No fiercer Juba's thirsty land,
Dire nurse of raging lions, bore.

Place me where no soft summer gale
Among the quivering branches sighs;
Where clouds condens'd for ever veil
With horrid gloom the frowning skies:

Place me beneath the burning line,
A clime deny'd to human race:
I'll sing of Chloe's charms divine,
Her heav'nly voice, and beauteous face.

Translation of HORACE. Book II. Ode ix.

CLOUDS do not always veil the skies,
Nor showers immerse the verdant plain:
Nor do the billows always rise,
Or storms afflict the ruffled main.

Nor, Valgius, on th' Armenian shores
Do the chain'd waters always freeze;
Not always furious Boreas roars,
Or bends with violent force the trees.

But you are ever drown'd in tears,
For Mystes dead you ever mourn;
No setting Sol can ease your care,
But finds you sad at his return.

From Horace and Homer

The wise experienc'd Grecian sage
Mourn'd not Antilochus so long;
Nor did King Priam's hoary age
So much lament his slaughter'd son.

Leave off, at length, these woman's sighs,
Augustus' numerous trophies sing;
Repeat that prince's victories,
To whom all nations tribute bring.

Niphates rolls an humbler wave,
At length the undaunted Scythian yields,
Content to live the Roman's slave,
And scarce forsakes his native fields.

Translation of part of the Dialogue between HECTOR *and* ANDROMACHE; *from the Sixth Book of* HOMER'S ILIAD.

SHE ceas'd; then godlike Hector answer'd kind,
(His various plumage sporting in the wind)
That post, and all the rest, shall be my care;
But shall I, then, forsake the unfinished war?
How would the Trojans brand great Hector's name!
And one base action sully all my fame,
Acquired by wounds and battles bravely fought!
Oh! how my soul abhors so mean a thought.
Long since I learn'd to slight this fleeting breath,
And view with cheerful eyes approaching death.
The inexorable sisters have decreed
That Priam's house, and Priam's self shall bleed:
The day will come, in which proud Troy shall yield,
And spread its smoking ruins o'er the field.
Yet Hecuba's, nor Priam's hoary age,
Whose blood shall quench some Grecian's thirsty rage,

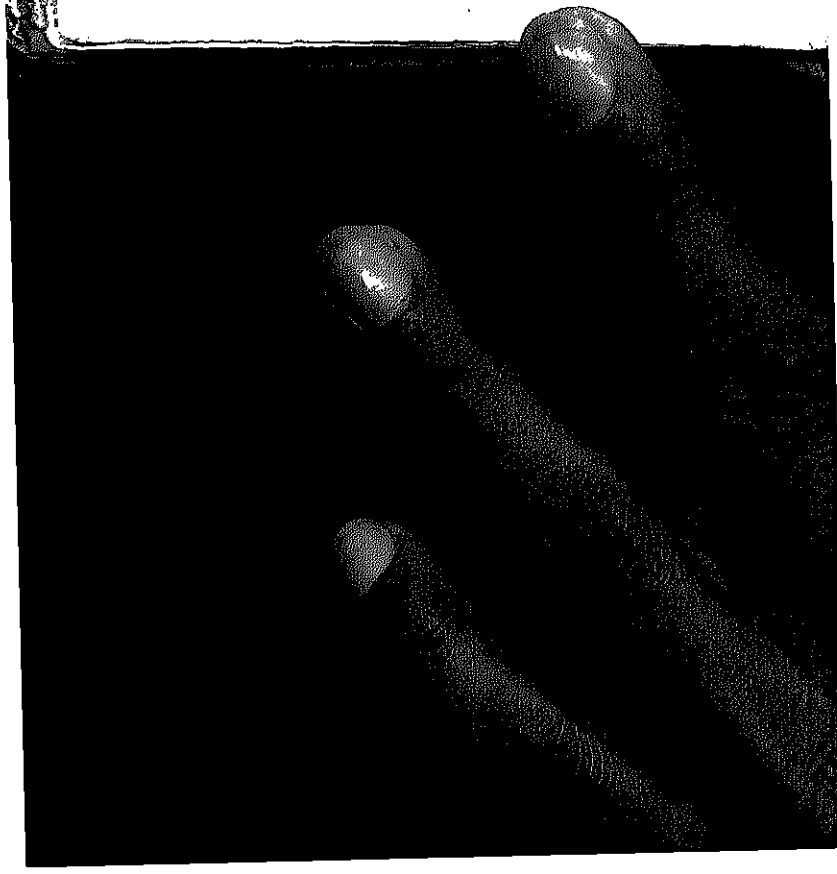
her Birth-day"

Can in my bosom hair that grief create,
As the sad thought of your impending fate:
When some proud Grecian dame shall tasks impose,
Mimick your tears, and ridicule your woes;
Beneath Hyperia's waters shall you sweat,
And, fainting, scarce support the liquid weight:
Then shall some Argive loud insulting cry,
Behold the wife of Hector, guard of Troy!
Tears, at my name, shall drown those beauteous eyes,
And that fair bosom heave with rising sighs!
Before that day, by some brave hero's hand
May I lie slain, and spurn the bloody sand.

To a Young Lady *on her* Birth-Day.[1]

This tributary verse receive my fair,
Warm with an ardent lover's fondest pray'r.
May this returning day for ever find
Thy form more lovely, more adorn'd thy mind;
All pains, all cares, may favouring heav'n remove,
All but the sweet solicitudes of love!
May powerful nature join with grateful art,
To point each glance, and force it to the heart!
O then, when conquered crowds confess thy sway,
When ev'n proud wealth and prouder wit obey,
My fair, be mindful of the mighty trust,
Alas! 'tis hard for beauty to be just.
Those sovereign charms with strictest care employ;
Nor give the generous pain, the worthless joy:

[1] Mr. Hector informs me, that this was made almost *impromptu*, in his presence.



Teach mimick censure her own faults to find,
No more let coquettes to themselves be blind,
So shall Belinda's charms improve mankind.

"Young Authour"

The Young Authour.[1]

When first the peasant, long inclin'd to roam,
Forsakes his rural sports and peaceful home,
Pleas'd with the scene the smiling ocean yields,
He scorns the verdant meads and flow'ry fields;
Then dances jocund o'er the watery way,
While the breeze whispers, and the streamers play:
Unbounded prospects in his bosom roll,
And future millions lift his rising soul;
In blissful dreams he digs the golden mine,
And raptur'd sees the new-found ruby shine.
Joys insincere! thick clouds invade the skies,
Loud roar the billows, high the waves arise;
Sick'ning with fear, he longs to view the shore,
And vows to trust the faithless deep no more.
So the young Authour, panting after fame,
And the long honours of a lasting name,
Entrusts his happiness to human kind,
More false, more cruel, than the seas or wind.
"Toil on, dull croud, *in extacies he cries,*
For wealth or title, perishable prize;
While I those transitory blessings scorn,
Secure of praise from ages yet unborn."

[1] This he inserted, with many alterations, in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1743.
[He, however, did not add his name. See Gent. Mag. *vol. xiii. p. 378.—M.*]

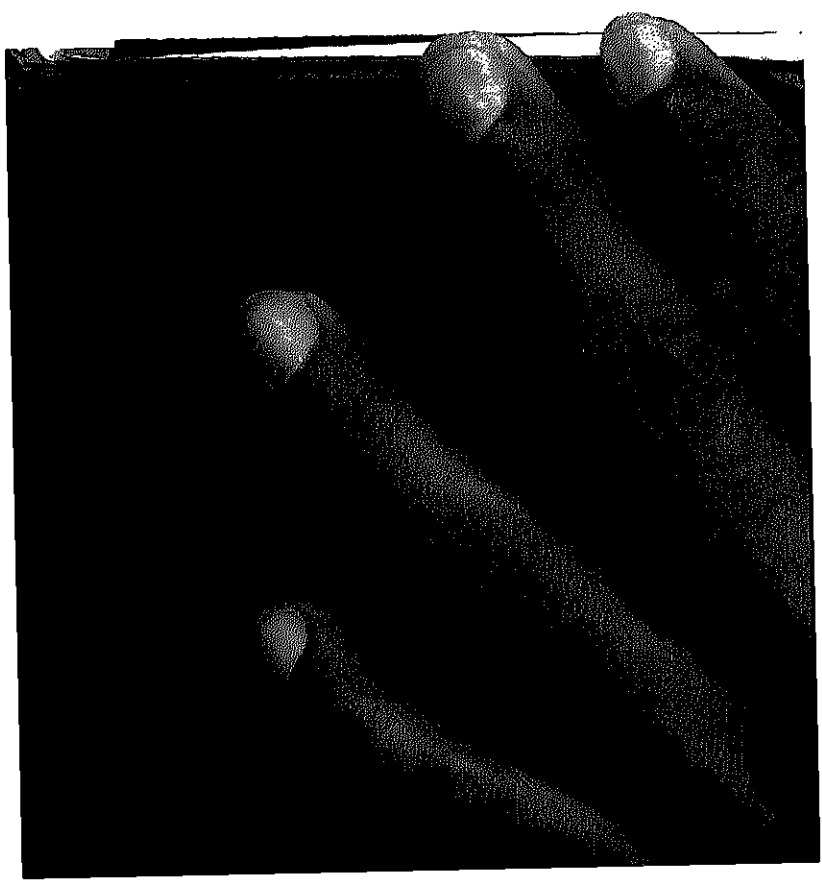


This thought once form'd, all council comes too late,
He flies to press, and hurries on his fate;
Swiftly he sees the imagin'd laurels spread,
And feels the unfading wreath surround his head.
Warn'd by another's fate, vain youth be wise,
Those dreams were Settle's once, and Ogilby's:
The pamphlet spreads, incessant hisses rise,
To some retreat the baffled writer flies;
Where no sour criticks snarl, no sneers molest,
Safe from the tart lampoon, and stinging jest;
There begs of heaven a less distinguish'd lot,
Glad to be hid, and proud to be forgot.

EPILOGUE, *intended to have been spoken by a* LADY *who was to personate the Ghost of* HERMIONE.[1]

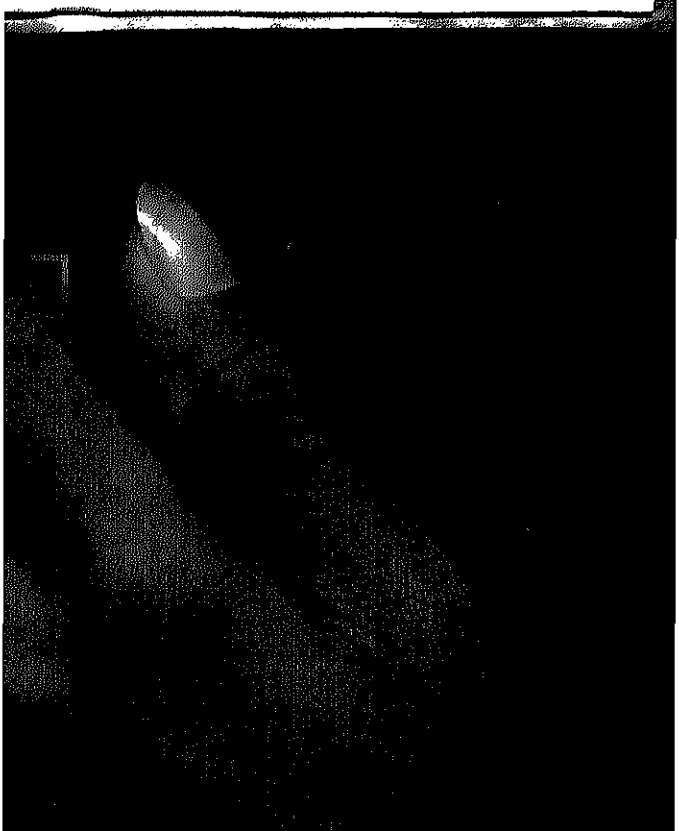
YE blooming train, who give despair or joy,
Bless with a smile, or with a frown destroy;
In whose fair cheeks destructive Cupids wait,
And with unerring shafts distribute fate;
Whose snowy breasts, whose animated eyes,
Each youth admires, though each admirer dies;
Whilst you deride their pangs in barb'rous play,
Unpitying see them weep, and hear them pray,
And unrelenting sport ten thousand lives away;
For you, ye fair, I quit the gloomy plains;
Where sable night in all her horrour reigns;
No fragrant bowers, no delightful glades,
Receive the unhappy ghosts of scornful maids.

[1] Some young ladies at Lichfield having proposed to act "The Distressed Mother," Johnson wrote this, and gave it to Mr. Hector to convey it privately to them.



r kind, for tender nymphs the myrtle blooms,
ıd weaves her bending boughs in pleasing glooms:
rennial roses deck each purple vale,
ıd scents ambrosial breathe in every gale:
r hence are banish'd vapours, spleen, and tears,
a, scandal, ivory teeth, and languid airs:
› pug, nor favourite Cupid there enjoys
ıe balmy kiss, for which poor 'Thyrsis dies;
rm'd to delight, they use no foreign arms,
›r torturing whalebones pinch them into charms;
› conscious blushes there their cheeks inflame,
›r those who feel no guilt can know no shame;
ıfaded still their former charms they shew,
›ound them pleasures wait, and joys for ever new.
t cruel virgins meet severer fates;
:pell'd and exil'd from the blissful seats,
› dismal realms, and regions void of peace,
here furies ever howl, and serpents hiss.
er the sad plains perpetual tempests sigh,
ıd pois'nous vapours, black'ning all the sky,
ith livid hue the fairest face o'ercast,
ıd every beauty withers at the blast:
here'er they fly their lovers' ghosts pursue,
:licting all those ills which once they knew;
:xation, Fury, Jealousy, Despair,
:x ev'ry eye, and every bosom tear;
ıeir foul deformities by all descry'd,
› maid to flatter, and no paint to hide.
ıen melt, ye fair, while crowds around you sigh,
›r let disdain sit lowring in your eye;
ith pity soften every awful grace,
ıd beauty smile auspicious in each face;
› ease their pains exert your milder power,
shall you guiltless reign, and all mankind adore.

to "The Distressed Mother"



His tutor, Mr. Jorden

of what passed on the night of Johnson's arrival at Oxford. On that evening, his father, who had anxiously accompanied him, found means to have him introduced to Mr. Jorden, who was to be his tutor. His being put under any tutor, reminds us of what Wood says of Robert Burton, authour of the "Anatomy of Melancholy," when elected student of Christ Church; "for form's sake, *though he wanted not a tutor*, he was put under the tuition of Dr. John Bancroft, afterwards Bishop of Oxon."[1]

His father seemed very full of the merits of his son, and told the company he was a good scholar, and a poet, and wrote Latin verses. His figure and manner appeared strange to them; but he behaved modestly, and sat silent, till upon something which occurred in the course of conversation, he suddenly struck in and quoted Macrobius; and thus he gave the first impression of that more extensive reading in which he had indulged himself.

His tutor, Mr. Jorden, fellow of Pembroke, was not, it seems, a man of such abilities as we should conceive requisite for the instructor of Samuel Johnson, who gave me the following account of him. "He was a very worthy man, but a heavy man, and I did not profit much by his instructions. Indeed, I did not attend him much. The first day after I came to college, I waited upon him, and then staid away four. On the sixth, Mr. Jorden asked me why I had not attended. I answered, I had been sliding in Christ-Church meadow. And this I said with as much *nonchalance* as I am now[2] talking to you. I had no

[1] Athen. Oxon. edit. 1721, I. 627.
[2] Oxford, 20th March, 1776.

notion that I was wrong or irreverent to my tutor." BOSWELL. "That, Sir, was great fortitude of mind." JOHNSON. "No, Sir; stark insensibility."[1]

Johnson translates Pope's "Messiah"

The fifth of November was at that time kept with great solemnity at Pembroke College, and exercises upon the subject of the day were required. Johnson neglected to perform his, which is much to be regretted; for his vivacity of imagination, and force of language, would probably have produced something sublime upon the gunpowder plot. To apologise for his neglect, he gave in a short copy of verses, intitled *Somnium*, containing a common thought; "that the Muse had come to him in his sleep, and whispered, that it did not become him to write on such subjects as politicks; he should confine himself to humbler themes:" but the versification was truly Virgilian.

He had a love and respect for Jorden, not for his literature, but for his worth. "Whenever (said he) a young man becomes Jorden's pupil, he becomes his son."

Having given such a specimen of his poetical powers, he was asked by Mr. Jorden, to translate Pope's Messiah into Latin verse, as a Christmas exercise. He performed it with uncommon rapidity, and in so masterly a manner, that he obtained great applause from it, which ever after kept him high in the estimation of his College, and, indeed, of all the University.

[1] It ought to be remembered, that Dr. Johnson was apt, in his literary as well as moral exercises, to overcharge his defects. Dr. Adams informed me, that he attended his tutor's lectures, and also the lectures in the College Hall, very regularly.

His translation eulogized

It is said, that Mr. Pope expressed himself concerning it in terms of strong approbation. Dr. Taylor told me, that it was first printed for old Mr. Johnson, without the knowledge of his son, who was very angry when he heard of it. A Miscellany of Poems collected by a person of the name of Husbands, was published at Oxford in 1731. In that Miscellany Johnson's Translation of the Messiah appeared, with this modest motto from Scaliger's Poeticks, "*Ex alieno ingenio Poeta, ex suo tantum versificator.*"

I am not ignorant that critical objections have been made to this and other specimens of Johnson's Latin Poetry. I acknowledge myself not competent to decide on a question of such extreme nicety. But I am satisfied with the just and discriminative eulogy pronounced upon it by my friend Mr. Courtenay.

"And with like ease his vivid lines assume
The garb and dignity of ancient Rome.—
Let college *verse-men* trite conceits express,
Trick'd out in splendid shreds of Virgil's dress:
From playful Ovid cull the tinsel phrase,
And vapid notions hitch in pilfer'd lays;
Then with mosaic art the piece combine,
And boast the glitter of each dulcet line:
Johnson adventur'd boldly to transfuse
His vigorous sense into the Latin muse;
Aspir'd to shine by unreflected light,
And with a Roman's ardour *think* and write.
He felt the tuneful Nine his breast inspire,
And, like a master, wak'd the soothing lyre;

Horatian strains a grateful heart proclaim,
While Sky's wild rocks resound his Thralia's name.—
Hesperia's plant, in some less skilful hands,
To bloom a while, factitious heat demands:
Though glowing Mayo a faint warmth supplies,
The sickly blossom in the hot-house dies:
By Johnson's genial culture, art, and toil,
It's root strikes deep, and owns the fost'ring soil;
Imbibes our sun through all its swelling veins,
And grows a native of Britannia's plains." [1]

His morbid melancholy

The "*morbid melancholy*," which was lurking in his constitution, and to which we may ascribe those particularities, and that aversion to regular life, which, at a very early period marked his character, gathered such strength in his twentieth year, as to afflict him in a dreadful manner. While he was at Lichfield, in the college vacation of the year 1729, he felt himself overwhelmed with an horrible hypochondria, with perpetual irritation, fretfulness, and impatience; and with a dejection, gloom, and despair, which made existence misery. From this dismal malady he never afterwards was perfectly relieved; and all his labours, and all his enjoyments, were but temporary interruptions of its baleful influence. How wonderful, how unsearchable are the ways of GOD! Johnson, who was blest with all the powers of genius and understanding in a degree far above the ordinary state of human nature, was at the same time visited with a disorder so afflictive, that they who know it by dire

[1] Poetical Review of the Literary and Moral Character of Dr. Johnson, by John Courtenay, Esq. M.P.

Consults Dr. Swinfen

experience, will not envy his exalted endowments. That it was, in some degree, occasioned by a defect in his nervous system, that inexplicable part of our frame, appears highly probable. He told Mr. Paradise that he was sometimes so languid and inefficient, that he could not distinguish the hour upon the town-clock.

Johnson, upon the first violent attack of this disorder, strove to overcome it by forcible exertions. He frequently walked to Birmingham and back again, and tried many other expedients, but all in vain. His expression concerning it to me was "I did not then know how to manage it." His distress became so intolerable, that he applied to Dr. Swinfen, physician in Lichfield, his god-father, and put into his hands a state of his case, written in Latin. Dr. Swinfen was so much struck with the extraordinary acuteness, research, and eloquence of this paper, that in his zeal for his god-son he shewed it to several people. His daughter, Mrs. Desmoulins, who was many years humanely supported in Dr. Johnson's house in London, told me, that upon his discovering that Dr. Swinfen had communicated his case, he was so much offended, that he was never afterwards fully reconciled to him. He indeed had good reason to be offended; for though Dr. Swinfen's motive was good, he inconsiderately betrayed a matter deeply interesting and of great delicacy, which had been entrusted to him in confidence: and exposed a complaint of his young friend and patient, which, in the superficial opinion of the generality of mankind, is attended with contempt and disgrace.

But let not little men triumph upon knowing that

Johnson was an HYPOCHONDRIACK, was subject to what the learned, philosophical, and pious Dr. Cheyne has so well treated under the title of "The English Malady." Though he suffered severely from it, he was not therefore degraded. The powers of his great mind might be troubled, and their full exercise suspended at times; but the mind itself was ever entire. As a proof of this, it is only necessary to consider, that, when he was at the very worst, he composed that state of his own case, which shewed an uncommon vigour, not only of fancy and taste, but of judgement. I am aware that he himself was too ready to call such a complaint by the name of *madness*; in conformity with which notion, he has traced its gradations, with exquisite nicety, in one of the chapters of his RASSELAS. But there is surely a clear distinction between a disorder which affects only the imagination and spirits, while the judgement is sound, and a disorder by which the judgement itself is impaired. This distinction was made to me by the late Professor Gaubius of Leyden, physician to the Prince of Orange, in a conversation which I had with him several years ago, and he expanded it thus: "If (said he) a man tell me that he is grievously disturbed, for that he *imagines* he sees a ruffian coming against him with a drawn sword, though at the same time he is *conscious* it is a delusion, I pronounce him to have a disordered imagination; but if a man tells me that he *sees* this, and in consternation calls to me to look at it, I pronounce him to be *mad*."

His judgment not affected

It is a common effect of low spirits or melancholy, to make those who are afflicted with it imagine that they are actually suffering those evils which happen

Dread of insanity

to be most strongly presented to their minds. Some have fancied themselves to be deprived of the use of their limbs, some to labour under acute diseases, others to be in extreme poverty; when, in truth, there was not the least reality in any of the suppositions; so that when the vapours were dispelled, they were convinced of the delusion. To Johnson, whose supreme enjoyment was the exercise of his reason, the disturbance or obscuration of that faculty was the evil most to be dreaded. Insanity, therefore, was the object of his most dismal apprehension; and he fancied himself seized by it, or approaching to it, at the very time when he was giving proofs of a more than ordinary soundness and vigour of judgement. That his own diseased imagination should have so far deceived him, is strange; but it is stranger still that some of his friends should have given credit to his groundless opinion, when they had such undoubted proofs that it was totally fallacious; though it is by no means surprising that those who wish to depreciate him, should, since his death, have laid hold of this circumstance, and insisted upon it with very unfair aggravation.

Amidst the oppression and distraction of a disease which very few have felt in its full extent, but many have experienced in a slighter degree, Johnson, in his writings, and in his conversation, never failed to display all the varieties of intellectual excellence. In his march through this world to a better, his mind still appeared grand and brilliant, and impressed all around him with the truth of Virgil's noble sentiment—

"*Igneus est ollis vigor et cælestis origo.*"

Religious progress

The history of his mind as to religion is an important article. I have mentioned the early impressions made upon his tender imagination by his mother, who continued her pious cares with assiduity, but, in his opinion, not with judgement. "Sunday (said he) was a heavy day to me when I was a boy. My mother confined me on that day, and made me read 'The Whole Duty of Man,' from a great part of which I could derive no instruction. When, for instance, I had read the chapter on theft, which from my infancy I had been taught was wrong, I was no more convinced that theft was wrong than before; so there was no accession of knowledge. A boy should be introduced to such books, by having his attention directed to the arrangement, to the style, and other excellencies of composition; that the mind being thus engaged by an amusing variety of objects may not grow weary."

He communicated to me the following particulars upon the subject of his religious progress. "I fell into an inattention to religion, or an indifference about it, in my ninth year. The church at Lichfield, in which we had a seat, wanted reparation, so I was to go and find a seat in other churches; and having bad eyes, and being awkward about this, I used to go and read in the fields on Sunday. This habit continued till my fourteenth year; and still I find a great reluctance to go to church. I then became a sort of lax *talker* against religion, for I did not much *think* against it; and this lasted till I went to Oxford, where it would not be *suffered*. When at Oxford, I took up Law's 'Serious Call to a Holy Life,' expecting to find it a dull book,

Law's "Serious Call"

(as such books generally are), and perhaps to laugh at it. But I found Law quite an overmatch for me; and this was the first occasion of my thinking in earnest of religion, after I became capable of rational enquiry."[1] From this time forward religion was the predominant object of his thoughts; though, with the just sentiments of a conscientious

[1] Mrs. Piozzi has given a strange fantastical account of the original of Dr. Johnson's belief in our most holy religion. "At the age of *ten* years his mind was disturbed by scruples of infidelity, which preyed upon his spirits, and made him very uneasy, the more so, as he revealed his uneasiness to none, being naturally (as he said) of a sullen temper, and reserved disposition. He searched, however, diligently, but fruitlessly, for evidences of the truth of revelation; and, at length, *recollecting* a book he had *once* seen [*I suppose at five years old*] in his father's shop, intitled *De veritate Religionis*, &c. he began to think himself *highly culpable* for neglecting such a means of information, and took himself severely to task for this *sin*, adding many acts of voluntary, and, to others, unknown *penance*. The first opportunity which offered, of course, he seized the book with avidity; but, on examination, *not finding himself scholar enough to peruse its contents*, set his heart at rest; and not thinking to enquire whether there were any English books written on the subject, followed his usual amusements and *considered his conscience as lightened of a crime*. He redoubled his diligence to learn the language that contained the information he most wished for; but from the pain which *guilt* [*namely having omitted to read what he did not understand*] had given him, he now began to deduce the soul's immortality; [*a sensation of pain in this world being an unquestionable proof of existence in another*] which was the point that belief first stopped at; *and from that moment resolving to be a Christian*, became one of the most zealous and pious ones our nation ever produced." Anecdotes, p. 17.

This is one of the numerous misrepresentations of this lively lady, which it is worth while to correct; for if credit should be given to such a childish, irrational, and

christian, he lamented that his practice of its duties fell far short of what it ought to be. Religious conversions

This instance of a mind such as that of Johnson being first disposed, by an unexpected incident, to think with anxiety of the momentous concerns of eternity, and of "what he should do to be saved," may for ever be produced in opposition to the superficial and sometimes profane contempt that has been thrown upon those occasional impressions which it is certain many christians have experienced; though it must be acknowledged that weak minds, from an erroneous supposition that no man is in a state of grace who has not felt a particular conversion, have, in some cases, brought a degree of ridicule upon them; a ridicule, of which it is inconsiderate or unfair to make a general application.

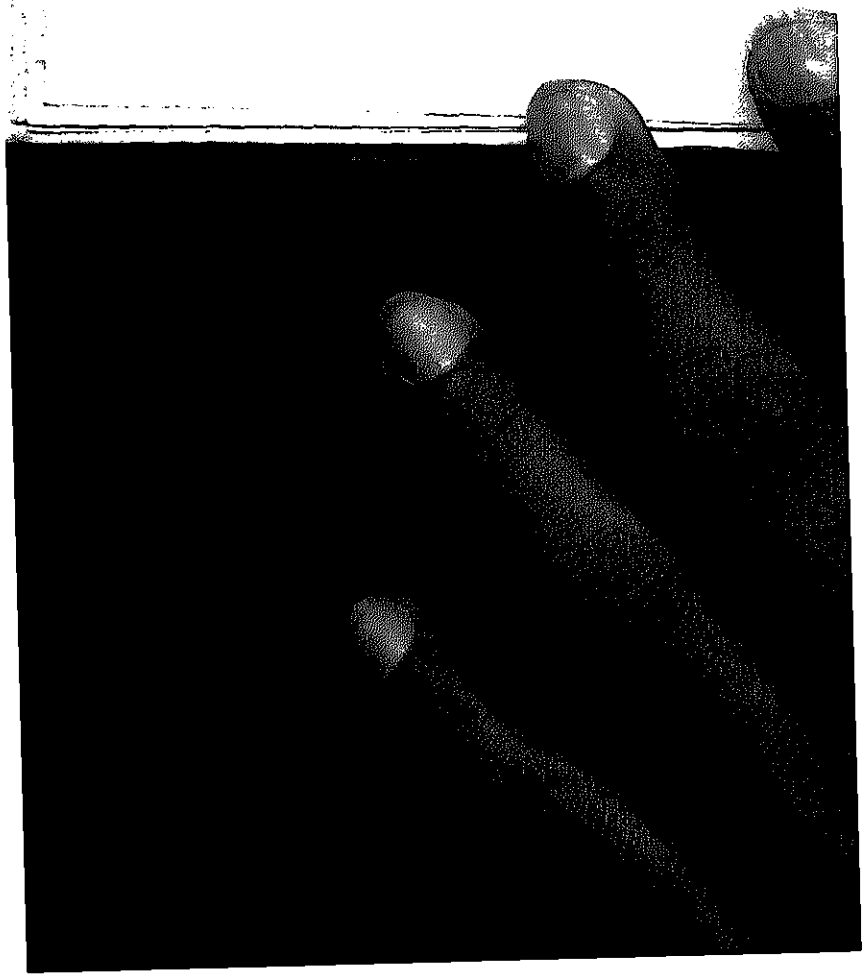
How seriously Johnson was impressed with a sense of religion, even in the vigour of his youth, appears from the following passage in his minutes kept by way of diary: Sept. 7, 1736. I have this day entered upon my 28th year. "Mayest thou, O God, enable me, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, to spend this in such a manner, that I may receive comfort from it at the hour of death, and in the day of judgement! Amen."

The particular course of his reading while at Oxford, and during the time of vacation which he passed at home, cannot be traced. Enough has been said of his irregular mode of study. He told

ridiculous statement of the foundation of Dr. Johnson's faith in Christianity, how little credit would be due to it. Mrs. Piozzi seems to wish, that the world should think Dr. Johnson also under the influence of that easy logick, *Stet pro ratione voluntas.*

Oxford studies

me, that from his earliest years he loved to read poetry, but hardly ever read any poem to an end; that he read Shakspeare at a period so early, that the speech of the Ghost in Hamlet terrified him when he was alone; that Horace's Odes were the compositions in which he took most delight, and it was long before he liked his Epistles and Satires. He told me what he read *solidly* at Oxford was Greek; not the Grecian historians, but Homer and Euripides, and now and then a little Epigram; that the study of which he was the most fond was Metaphysicks, but he had not read much, even in that way. I always thought that he did himself injustice in his account of what he had read, and that he must have been speaking with reference to the vast portion of study which is possible, and to which a few scholars in the whole history of literature have attained; for when I once asked him whether a person whose name I have now forgotten, studied hard, he answered "No, Sir. I do not believe he studied hard. I never knew a man who studied hard. I conclude, indeed, from the effects, that some men have studied hard, as Bentley and Clarke." Trying him by that criterion upon which he formed his judgement of others, we may be absolutely certain, both from his writings and his conversation, that his reading was very extensive. Dr. Adam Smith, than whom few were better judges on this subject, once observed to me, that "Johnson knew more books than any man alive." He had a peculiar facility in seizing at once what was valuable in any book, without submitting to the labour of perusing it from beginning to end. He had, from the irritability of his constitution, at all times, an impatience and

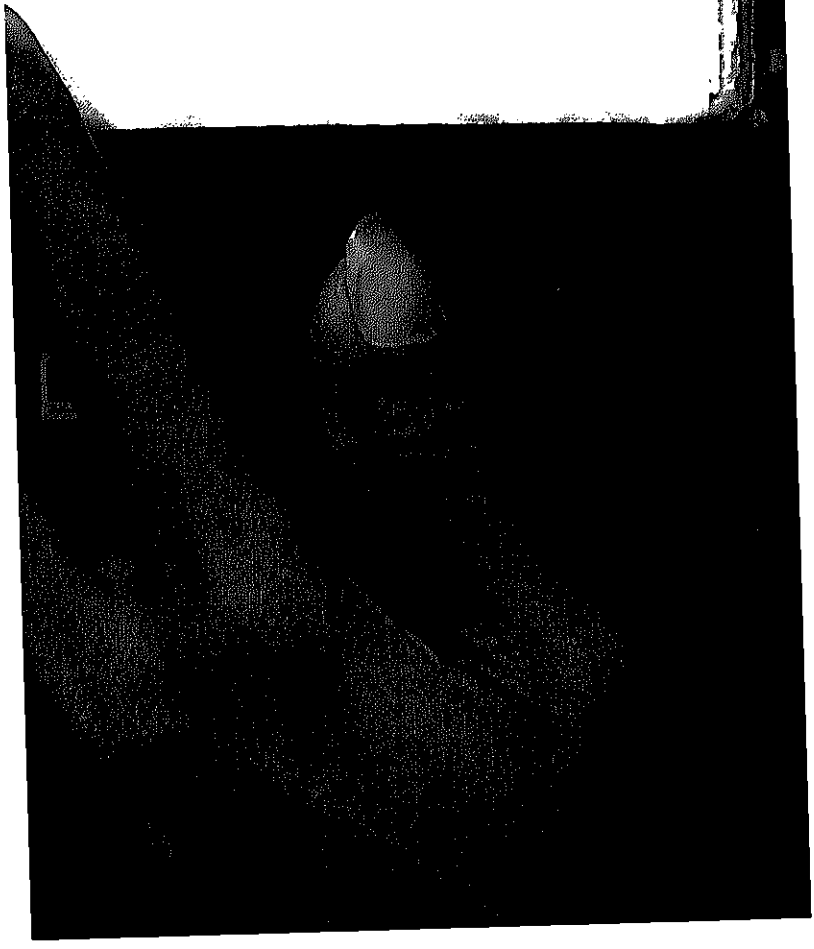


first exercise at College twice over; but he never took that trouble with any other composition: and we shall see that his most excellent works were struck off at a heat, with rapid exertion.[1]

Yet he appears, from his early notes or memorandums in my possession, to have at various times attempted, or at least planned, a methodical course of study, according to computation, of which he was all his life fond, as it fixed his attention steadily upon something without, and prevented his mind from preying upon itself. Thus I find in his handwriting the number of lines in each of two of Euripides's Tragedies, of the Georgicks of Virgil, of the first six books of the Æneid, of Horace's Art of Poetry, of three of the books of Ovid's Metamorphosis, of some parts of Theocritus, and of the tenth Satire of Juvenal; and a table, showing at the rate of various numbers a day, (I suppose verses to be read,) what would be, in each case, the total amount in a week, month, and year.

No man had a more ardent love of literature, or a higher respect for it, than Johnson. His apartment in Pembroke College was that upon the second floor over the gateway. The enthusiast of learning will ever contemplate it with veneration. One day, while he was sitting in it quite alone, Dr. Panting, then master of the College, whom he called "a fine Jaco-

[1] [He told Dr. Burney, that he never wrote any of his works that were printed, twice over. Dr. Burney's wonder at seeing several pages of his "Lives of the Poets," in Manuscript, with scarce a blot or erasure, drew this observation from him.—M.]



pearances mind to see what is done in other places of learning. I'll go and visit the Universities abroad. I'll go to France and Italy. I'll go to Padua.—And I'll mind my business. For an *Athenian* blockhead is the worst of all blockheads."[1]

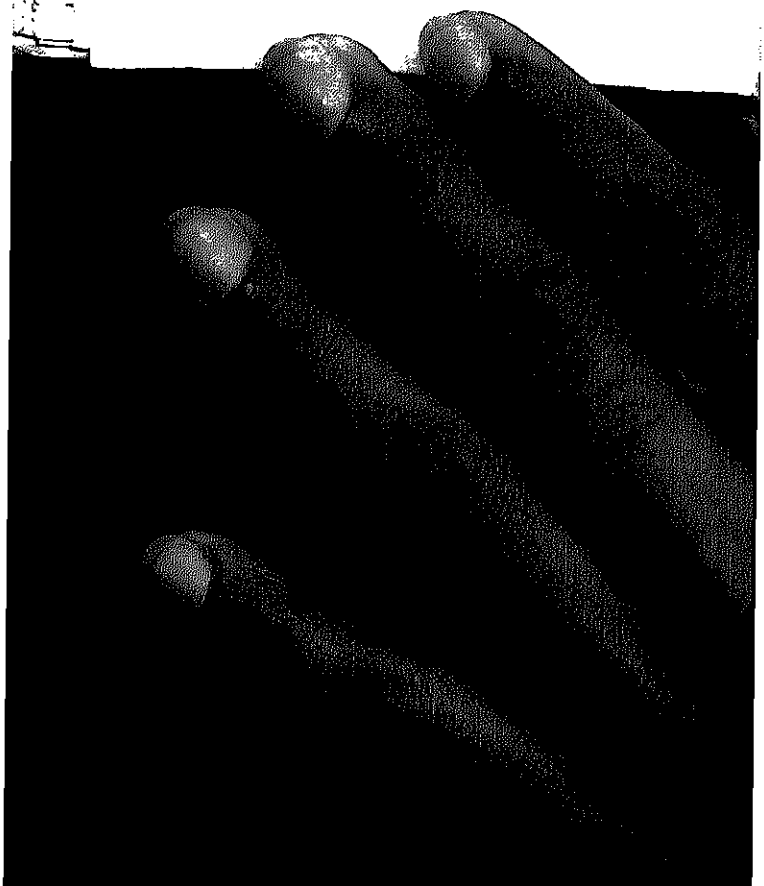
Dr. Adams told me that Johnson, while he was at Pembroke College, "was caressed and loved by all about him, was a gay and frolicksome fellow, and passed there the happiest part of his life." But this is a striking proof of the fallacy of appearances, and how little any of us know of the real internal state even of those whom we see most frequently; for the truth is, that he was then depressed by poverty, and irritated by disease. When I mentioned to him this account as given me by Dr. Adams, he said, "Ah, Sir, I was mad and violent. It was bitterness which they mistook for frolick. I was miserably poor, and I thought to fight my way by my literature and my wit; so I disregarded all power and all authority."

The Bishop of Dromore observes in a letter to me, "The pleasure he took in vexing the tutors and fellows has been often mentioned. But I have

[1] I had this anecdote from Dr. Adams, and Dr. Johnson confirmed it. Bramston, in his "Man of Taste," has the same thought:

"Sure, of all blockheads, scholars are the worst."

[Johnson's meaning however, is, that a scholar who is a blockhead, must be the worst of all blockheads, because he is without excuse. But Bramston, in the assumed character of an ignorant coxcomb, maintains, *that all scholars are blockheads*, on account of their scholarship.—J. Boswell.]



heard him say, what ought to be recorded to the honour of the present venerable master of that College, the Reverend William Adams, D.D. who was then very young, and one of the junior fellows; that the mild but judicious expostulations of this worthy man, whose virtue awed him, and whose learning he revered, made him really ashamed of himself, 'though I fear (said he) I was too proud to own it.'

His love for Pembroke College

"I have heard from some of his contemporaries that he was generally seen lounging at the College gate, with a circle of young students round him, whom he was entertaining with wit, and keeping from their studies, if not spiriting them up to rebellion against the College discipline, which in his maturer years he so much extolled."

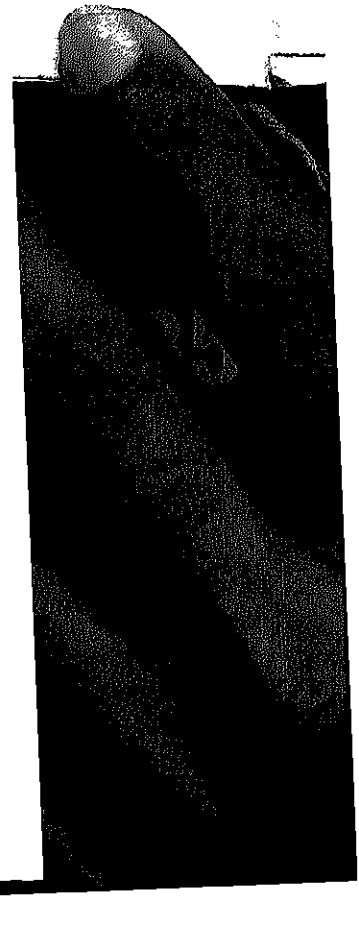
He very early began to attempt keeping notes or memorandums, by way of a diary of his life. I find, in a parcel of loose leaves, the following spirited resolution to contend against his natural indolence: *Oct.* 1729. "*Desidiæ valedixi; syrenis istius cantibus surdum posthac aurem obversurus.*—I bid farewell to Sloth, being resolved henceforth not to listen to her syren strains." I have also in my possession a few leaves of another *Libellus*, or little book, entitled ANNALES, in which some of the early particulars of his history are registered in Latin.

I do not find that he formed any close intimacies with his fellow-collegians. But Dr. Adams told me, that he contracted a love and regard for Pembroke College, which he retained to the last. A short time before his death he sent to that College, a present of all his works, to be deposited in their library; and he had thoughts of leaving to it his

pleasure in boasting of the many eminent men who had been educated at Pembroke. In this list are found the names of Mr. Hawkins the Poetry Professor, Mr. Shenstone, Sir William Blackstone, and others;[1] not forgetting the celebrated popular preacher, Mr. George Whitefield, of whom, though Dr. Johnson did not think very highly, it must be acknowledged that his eloquence was powerful, his views pious and charitable, his assiduity almost incredible; and, that since his death, the integrity of his character has been fully vindicated. Being himself a poet, Johnson was peculiarly happy in mentioning how many of the sons of Pembroke were poets; adding, with a smile of sportive triumph, "Sir, we are a nest of singing birds."

He was not, however, blind to what he thought the defects of his own college: and I have, from the information of Dr. Taylor, a very strong instance of that rigid honesty which he ever inflexibly preserved. Taylor had obtained his father's consent to be entered of Pembroke, that he might be with his schoolfellow Johnson, with whom, though some years older than himself, he was very intimate. This would have been a great comfort to Johnson. But he fairly told Taylor that he could not, in conscience, suffer him to enter where he knew he could not have an able tutor. He then made enquiry all round the University, and having found that Mr. Bateman, of Christ-Church, was the tutor of highest reputation, Taylor was entered of that

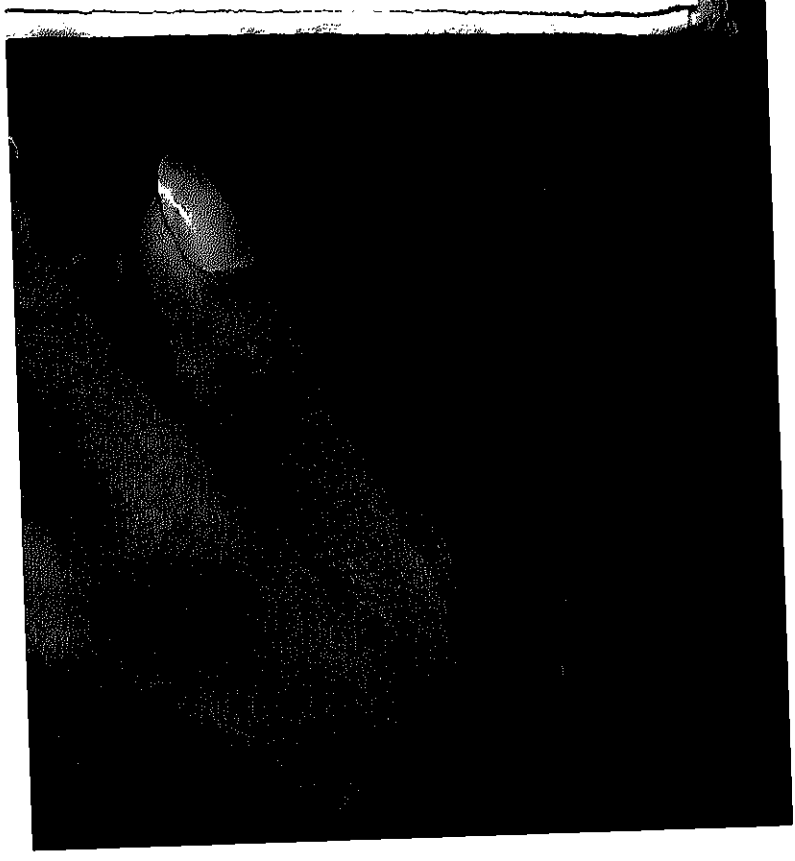
[1] See Nash's History of Worcestershire, Vol. I. p. 529.



second-hand from Taylor, till his poverty being extreme, that his shoes were worn out, and his feet appeared through them, he saw that this humiliating circumstance was perceived by the Christ-Church men, and he came no more. He was too proud to accept of money, and somebody having set a pair of new shoes at his door, he threw them away with indignation. How must we feel when we read such an anecdote of Samuel Johnson!

His spirited refusal of an eleemosynary supply of shoes, arose, no doubt, from a proper pride. But, considering his ascetic disposition at times, as acknowledged by himself in his Meditations, and the exaggeration with which some have treated the peculiarities of his character, I should not wonder to hear it ascribed to a principle of superstitious mortification; as we are told by Tursellinus, in his Life of St. Ignatius Loyola, that this intrepid founder of the order of Jesuits, when he arrived at Goa, after having made a severe pilgrimage through the eastern desarts, persisted in wearing his miserable shattered shoes, and when new ones were offered him, rejected them as an unsuitable indulgence.

The *res angusta domi* prevented him from having the advantage of a complete academical education. The friend to whom he had trusted for support had deceived him. His debts in College, though not great, were increasing; and his scanty remittances from Lichfield, which had all along been made with great difficulty, could be supplied no longer, his father having fallen into a state of insolvency.

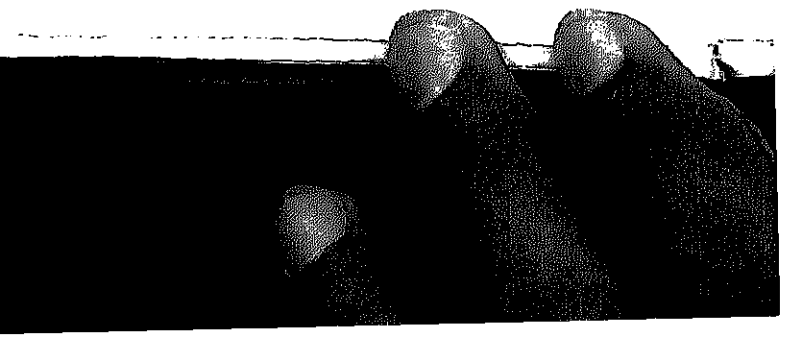


having been [illegible]
years.

Dr. Adams, the worthy and respectable master of Pembroke College, has generally had the reputation of being Johnson's tutor. The fact, however, is, that in 1731, Mr. Jorden quitted the College, and his pupils were transferred to Dr. Adams; so that had Johnson returned, Dr. Adams *would have been his tutor*. It is to be wished, that this connection had taken place. His equal temper, mild disposition, and politeness of manner, might have insensibly softened the harshness of Johnson, and infused into him those more delicate charities, those *petites morales*, in which, it must be confessed, our great moralist was more deficient than his best friends could fully justify. Dr. Adams paid Johnson this high compliment. He said to me at Oxford, in 1776, "I was his nominal tutor; but he was above my mark." When I repeated it to Johnson, his eyes flashed with grateful satisfaction, and he exclaimed, "That was liberal and noble."

And now (I had almost said *poor*) Samuel Johnson returned to his native city, destitute, and not knowing how he should gain even a decent livelihood. His father's misfortunes in trade rendered him unable to support his son; and for some time there appeared no means by which he could maintain himself. In the December of this year his father died.

The state of poverty in which he died, appears from a note in one of Johnson's little diaries of the following year, which strongly displays his spirit



funus (*quod serum sit precor*) *de paternis bonis sperari licet, viginti scilicet libras, accepi. Usque adeo mihi fortuna fingenda est. Interea, ne paupertate vires animi languescant, nec in flagitia egestas abigat, cavendum.*—I layed by eleven guineas on this day, when I received twenty pounds, being all that I have reason to hope for out of my father's effects, previous to the death of my mother; an event which I pray God may be very remote. I now therefore see that I must make my own fortune. Meanwhile, let me take care that the powers of my mind be not debilitated by poverty, and that indigence do not force me into any criminal act."

Johnson was so far fortunate, that the respectable character of his parents, and his own merit, had, from his earliest years, secured him a kind reception in the best families at Lichfield. Among these I can mention Mr. Howard, Dr. Swinfen, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Levett, Captain Garrick, father of the great ornament of the British stage; but above all, Mr. Gilbert Walmsley,[1] Registrar of the

[1] Mr. Warton informs me, "that this early friend of Johnson was entered a Commoner of Trinity College, Oxford, aged 17, in 1698; and is the author of many Latin verse translations in the Gentleman's Magazine. One of them is a translation of

"My time, O ye Muses, was happily spent," &c.

He died August 3, 1751, and a monument to his memory has been erected in the cathedral of Lichfield, with an inscription written by Mr. Seward, one of the Prebendaries.

[His translation of "My time, O ye Muses," &c. may be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1745, vol. xv. p. 102. It is there subscribed with his name.—M.]

of Edmund Smith, thus drawn in the glowing colours of gratitude:

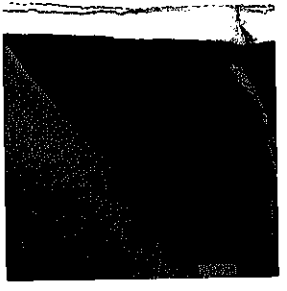
"Of Gilbert Walmsley, thus presented to my mind, let me indulge myself in the remembrance. I knew him very early; he was one of the first friends that literature procured me, and I hope, that at least, my gratitude made me worthy of his notice.

"He was of an advanced age, and I was only not a boy, yet he never received my notions with contempt. He was a whig, with all the virulence and malevolence of his party; yet difference of opinion did not keep us apart. I honoured him and he endured me.

"He had mingled with the gay world without exemption from its vices or its follies; but had never neglected the cultivation of his mind. His belief of revelation was unshaken; his learning preserved his principles; he grew first regular, and then pious.

"His studies had been so various, that I am not able to name a man of equal knowledge. His acquaintance with books was great, and what he did not immediately know, he could, at least, tell where to find. Such was his amplitude of learning, and such his copiousness of communication, that it may be doubted whether a day now passes, in which I have not some advantage from his friendship.

"At this man's table I enjoyed many cheerful and instructive hours, with companions, such as are not often found—with one who has lengthened, and one who has gladdened life; with Dr. James, whose skill in physick will be long remembered;



But what are the hopes of man! I am disappointed by that stroke of death, which has eclipsed the gaiety of nations, and impoverished the publick stock of harmless pleasure."

In these families he passed much time in his early years. In most of them, he was in the company of ladies, particularly at Mr. Walmsley's, whose wife and sisters-in-law, of the name of Aston, and daughters of a Baronet, were remarkable for good breeding; so that the notion which has been industriously circulated and believed, that he never was in good company till late in life, and consequently had been confirmed in coarse and ferocious manners by long habits, is wholly without foundation. Some of the ladies have assured me, they recollected him well when a young man, as distinguished for his complaisance.

And that his politeness was not merely occasional and temporary, or confined to the circles of Lichfield, is ascertained by the testimony of a lady, who, in a paper with which I have been favoured by a daughter of his intimate friend and physician, Dr. Lawrence, thus describes Dr. Johnson some years afterwards:

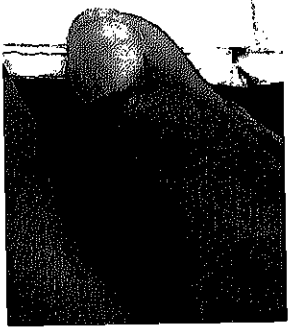
"As the particulars of the former part of Dr. Johnson's life do not seem to be very accurately known, a lady hopes that the following information may not be unacceptable.

"She remembers Dr. Johnson on a visit to Dr. Taylor, at Ashbourn, some time between the end of the year 37, and the middle of the year 40; she rather thinks it to have been after he and his wife

at Bradley, where his company was much desired by the ladies of the family, who were, perhaps, in point of elegance and accomplishments, inferiour to few of those with whom he was afterwards acquainted. Mr. Meynell's eldest daughter was afterwards married to Mr. Fitzherbert, father to Mr. Alleyne Fitzherbert, lately minister to the court of Russia. Of her, Dr. Johnson said, in Dr. Lawrence's study, that she had the best understanding he ever met with in any human being. At Mr. Meynell's he also commenced that friendship with Mrs. Hill Boothby, sister to the present Sir Brook Boothby, which continued till her death. The *young woman whom he used to call Molly Aston*,[1] was sister to Sir Thomas Aston, and daughter to a Baronet; she was also sister to the wife of his friend, Mr. Gilbert Walmsley.[2] Besides his intimacy with the above-mentioned persons, who were surely people of rank and education, while he was yet at Lichfield he used to be frequently at the house of Dr. Swinfen, a gentleman of very ancient family in Staffordshire, from which, after the death of his elder brother, he inherited a good estate. He was,

[1] The words of Sir John Hawkins, p. 316.

[2] [Sir Thomas Aston, Bart., who died in January 1724-5, left one son, named Thomas also, and eight daughters. Of the daughters, Catharine married Johnson's friend, the Hon. Henry Hervey; Margaret, Gilbert Walmsley. Another of these ladies married the Rev. Mr. Gastrell. Mary, or *Molly* Aston, as she was usually called, became the wife of Captain Brodie of the Navy. Another sister, who was unmarried, was living at Lichfield in 1776.—M.]



domestick concerns, left a very large family in indigence. One of his daughters, Mrs. Desmoulins, afterwards found an asylum in the house of her old friend, whose doors were always open to the unfortunate, and who well observed the precept of the Gospel, for he "was kind to the unthankful and to the evil."

an usher

In the forlorn state of his circumstances, he accepted of an offer to be employed as usher in the school of Market-Bosworth, in Leicestershire, to which it appears, from one of his little fragments of a diary, that he went on foot, on the 16th of July. —"*Julii* 16. *Bosvortiam pedes petii.*" But it is not true, as has been erroneously related, that he was assistant to the famous Anthony Blackwall, whose merit has been honoured by the testimony of Bishop Hurd,[1] who was his scholar; for Mr. Blackwall died on the 8th of April, 1730,[2] more than a year before Johnson left the University.

This employment was very irksome to him in every respect, and he complained grievously of it in his letters to his friend, Mr. Hector, who was now

[1] [There is here (as Mr. James Boswell observes to me) a slight inaccuracy. Bishop Hurd, in the Epistle Dedicatory prefixed to his Commentary on Horace's Art of Poetry, &c. does not praise Blackwall, but the Rev. Mr. Budworth, head-master of the grammar school at Brewood in Staffordshire, who had himself been bred under Blackwall. See vol. vi. near the end, where, from the information of Mr. John Nichols, Johnson is said to have applied in 1736 to Mr. Budworth, to be received by him as an assistant in his school in Staffordshire.—M.]

[2] See Gent. Mag. Dec. 1784, p. 957.



the poet had described the full calmness of his existence in these words, '*Vitam continet una dies*' (one day contains the whole of my life); that it was unvaried as the note of the cuckow; and that he did not know whether it was more disagreeable for him to teach, or the boys to learn, the grammar rules." His general aversion to this painful drudgery was greatly enhanced by a disagreement between him and Sir Wolstan Dixie, the patron of the school, in whose house, I have been told, he officiated as a kind of domestick chaplain, so far, at least, as to say grace at table, but was treated with what he represented as intolerable harshness; and, after suffering for a few months such complicated misery,[1] he relinquished a situation which all his life afterwards he recollected with the strongest aversion, and even a degree of horrour. But it is probable that at this period, whatever uneasiness he may have endured, he laid the foundation of much future eminence by application to his studies.

Being now again totally unoccupied, he was invited by Mr. Hector to pass some time with him at Birmingham, as his guest, at the house of Mr. Warren, with whom Mr. Hector lodged and boarded. Mr. Warren was the first established bookseller in Birmingham, and was very attentive

[1] [It appears from a letter of Johnson's to a friend, which I have read, dated Lichfield, July 27, 1732, that he had left Sir Wolstan Dixie's house, recently before that letter was written. He then had hopes of succeeding either as master or usher, in the school of Ashburne. —M.]

terature; and he even obtained the assistance of ham
is pen in furnishing some numbers of a periodical
Essay printed in the newspaper, of which Warren
vas proprietor. After very diligent enquiry, I have
ot been able to recover those early specimens of
hat particular mode of writing by which Johnson
fterwards so greatly distinguished himself.

He continued to live as Mr. Hector's guest for
bout six months, and then hired lodgings in another
art of the town,[1] finding himself as well situated at
Birmingham as he supposed he could be any where,
hile he had no settled plan of life, and very scanty
eans of subsistence. He made some valuable ac-
uaintances there, amongst whom were Mr. Porter,
mercer, whose widow he afterwards married, and
Mr. Taylor, who by his ingenuity in mechanical
ventions, and his success in trade, acquired an
mmense fortune. But the comfort of being near
Mr. Hector, his old school-fellow and intimate
iend, was Johnson's chief inducement to con-
nue here.

In what manner he employed his pen at this period,
r whether he derived from it any pecuniary advan-
ge, I have not been able to ascertain. He probably
ot a little money from Mr. Warren; and we are
ertain, that he executed here one piece of literary
bour, of which Mr. Hector has favoured me with
minute account. Having mentioned that he had

[1] [In June 1733, Sir John Hawkins states, from one of Johnson's diaries, that he lodged in Birmingham at the house of a person named Jarvis, probably a relation of Mrs Porter, whom he afterwards married.—M.]

an abridgement and translation of it from the French into English might be an useful and profitable publication, Mr. Warren and Mr. Hector joined in urging him to undertake it. He accordingly agreed; and the book not being to be found in Birmingham, he borrowed it of Pembroke College. A part of the work being very soon done, one Osborn, who was Mr. Warren's Printer, was set to work with what was ready, and Johnson engaged to supply the press with copy as it should be wanted; but his constitutional indolence soon prevailed, and the work was at a stand. Mr. Hector, who knew that a motive of humanity would be the most prevailing argument with his friend, went to Johnson, and represented to him, that the printer could have no other employment till this undertaking was finished, and that the poor man and his family were suffering. Johnson upon this exerted the powers of his mind, though his body was relaxed. He lay in bed with the book, which was a quarto, before him, and dictated while Hector wrote. Mr. Hector carried the sheets to the press, and corrected almost all the proof sheets, very few of which were even seen by Johnson. In this manner, with the aid of Mr. Hector's active friendship, the book was completed, and was published in 1735, with London upon the title-page, though it was in reality printed at Birmingham, a device too common with provincial publishers. For this work he had from Mr. Warren only the sum of five guineas.

This being the first prose work of Johnson, it is a curious object of enquiry how much may be traced in



nion of force, vivacity, and perspicuity. I have perused the book with this view, and have found that here, as I believe in every other translation, there is in the work itself no vestige of the translator's own style; for the language of translation being adapted to the thoughts of another person, insensibly follows their cast, and as it were runs into a mould that is ready prepared.

Thus, for instance, taking the first sentence that occurs at the opening of the book, p. 4. "I lived here above a year, and completed my studies in divinity; in which time some letters were received from the fathers of Ethiopia, with an account that Sultan Segned, Emperour of Abyssinia, was converted to the church of Rome; that many of his subjects had followed his example, and that there was a great want of missionaries to improve these prosperous beginnings. Every body was very desirous of seconding the zeal of our fathers, and of sending them the assistance they requested; to which we were the more encouraged, because the Emperour's letter informed our Provincial, that we might easily enter his dominions by the way of Dancala; but, unhappily, the secretary wrote Geila for Dancala, which cost two of our fathers their lives." Every one acquainted with Johnson's manner will be sensible that there is nothing of it here; but that this sentence might have been composed by any other man.

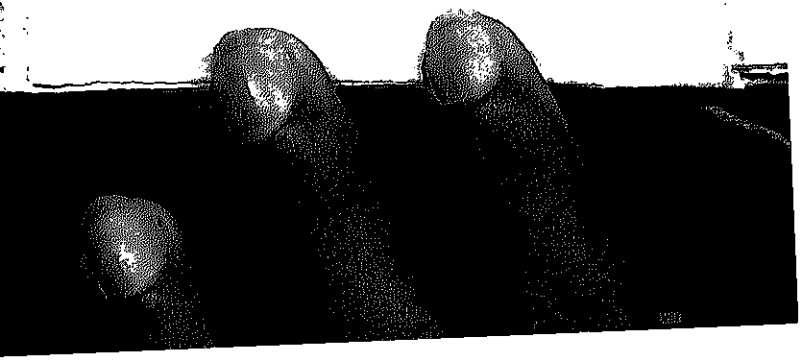
But, in the Preface, the Johnsonian style begins to appear; and though use had not yet taught his wing a permanent and equable flight, there are

style opinion, by his superiour critical sagacity, and was, I remember, much delighted with the following specimen:

"The Portuguese traveller, contrary to the general vein of his countrymen, has amused his reader with no romantick absurdity, or incredible fictions; whatever he relates, whether true or not, is at least probable; and he who tells nothing exceeding the bounds of probability, has a right to demand that they should believe him who cannot contradict him.

"He appears by his modest and unaffected narration, to have described things as he saw them, to have copied nature from the life, and to have consulted his senses, not his imagination. He meets with no basilisks that destroy with their eyes, his crocodiles devour their prey without tears, and his cataracts fall from the rocks without deafening the neighbouring inhabitants.

"The reader will here find no regions cursed with irremediable barrenness, or blest with spontaneous fecundity; no perpetual gloom, or unceasing sunshine; nor are the nations here described, either devoid of all sense of humanity, or consummate in all private or social virtues. Here are no Hottentots without religious policy or articulate language; no Chinese perfectly polite, and completely skilled in all sciences; he will discover, what will always be discovered by a diligent and impartial enquirer, that wherever human nature is to be found, there is a mixture of vice and virtue, a contest of passion and reason; and that the Creator doth not appear partial



favours."

Here we have an early example of that brilliant and energetick expression, which, upon innumerable occasions in his subsequent life, justly impressed the world with the highest admiration.

Nor can any one, conversant with the writings of Johnson, fail to discern his hand in this passage of the Dedication to John Warren, Esq. of Pembrokeshire, though it is ascribed to Warren the bookseller. "A generous and elevated mind is distinguished by nothing more certainly than an eminent degree of curiosity;[1] nor is that curiosity ever more agreeably or usefully employed, than in examining the laws and customs of foreign nations. I hope, therefore, the present I now presume to make, will not be thought improper; which, however, it is not my business as a dedicator to commend, nor as a bookseller to depreciate."

It is reasonable to suppose, that his having been thus accidentally led to a particular study of the history and manners of Abyssinia, was the remote occasion of his writing, many years afterwards, his admirable philosophical tale, the principal scene of which is laid in that country.

Johnson returned to Lichfield early in 1734, and in August that year he made an attempt to procure some little subsistence by his pen; for he published proposals for printing by subscription the Latin Poems of Politian:[2] "*Angeli Politiani Poemata*

[1] See RAMBLER, No. 103.

[2] May we not trace a fanciful similarity between Politian, and Johnson? Huetius, speaking of Paulus Pelis-

Politiani fusius quam antehac enarratâ, addidit SAM. JOHNSON."[1]

It appears that his brother Nathanael had taken up his father's trade; for it is mentioned that "subscriptions are taken in by the Editor, or N. Johnson, bookseller, of Lichfield." Notwithstanding the merit of Johnson, and the cheap price at which this book was offered, there were not subscribers enough to insure a sufficient sale; so the work never appeared, and probably, never was executed.

We find him again this year at Birmingham, and there is preserved the following letter from him to Mr. Edward Cave,[2] the original compiler and editor of the Gentleman's Magazine:

"TO MR. CAVE.

"SIR, *Nov.* 25, 1734.

"As you appear no less sensible than your readers of the defects of your poetical article, you will not be displeased, if, in order to the improvement of it, I communicate to you the sentiments of

sonius Fontanerius, says "—in quo Natura, ut olim in Angelo Politiano, deformitatem oris excellentis ingenii præstantia compensavit." Comment. de reb. ad eum pertin. Edit. Amstel. 1718, p. 200.

[1] The book was to contain more than thirty sheets, the price to be two shillings and sixpence at the time of subscribing, and two shillings and sixpence at the delivery of a perfect book in quires.

[2] Miss Cave, the grand-niece of Mr. Edw. Cave, has obligingly shewn me the originals of this and the other letters of Dr. Johnson, to him, which were first published in the Gentleman's Magazine, with notes by Mr. John

"His opinion is, that the publick would not give you a bad reception, if, beside the current wit of the month, which a critical examination would generally reduce to a narrow compass, you admitted not only poems, inscriptions, &c. never printed before, which he will sometimes supply you with, but likewise short literary dissertations in Latin or English, critical remarks on authours ancient or modern, forgotten poems that deserve revival, or loose pieces, like Floyer's,[1] worth preserving. By this method, your literary article, for so it might be called, will, he thinks, be better recommended to the publick than by low jests, awkward buffoonery, or the dull scurrilities of either party.

"If such a correspondence will be agreeable to you, be pleased to inform me in two posts, what the conditions are on which you shall expect it. Your late offer[2] gives me no reason to distrust your generosity. If you engage in any literary projects besides this paper, I have other designs to impart, if I could be secure from having others reap the advantage of what I should hint.

"Your letter by being directed to *S. Smith*, to be left at the Castle in Birmingham, Warwickshire, will reach

"Your humble servant."

Nichols, the worthy and indefatigable editor of that valuable miscellany, signed N.; some of which I shall occasionally transcribe in the course of this work.

[1] Sir John Floyer's Treatise on Cold Baths. Gent. Mag. 1734, p. 197.

[2] A prize of fifty pounds for the best poem "on Life, Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell." See Gentleman's Magazine, vol. iv. p. 560.—Nichols.

female charms

in consequence of it we are not informed.

Johnson had, from his early youth, been sensible to the influence of female charms. When at Stourbridge-school, he was much enamoured of Olivia Lloyd, a young quaker, to whom he wrote a copy of verses, which I have not been able to recover; [1]

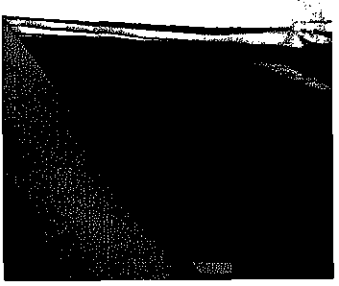
[1] [He also wrote some amatory verses, before he left Staffordshire, which our authour appears not to have seen. They were addressed "to Miss Hickman, playing on the Spinet." At the back of this early poetical effusion, of which the original copy, in Johnson's handwriting, was obligingly communicated to me by Mr. John Taylor, is the following attestation:

"Written by the late Dr. Samuel Johnson, on my mother, then Miss Hickman, playing on the Spinet. J. Turton."

Dr. Turton, the physician, the writer of this certificate, who died in April, 1806, in his 71st year, was born in 1735. The verses in question therefore, which have been printed in some late editions of Johnson's poems, must have been written before that year.—Miss Hickman, it is believed, was a lady of Staffordshire.

The concluding lines of this early copy of verses have much of the vigour of Johnson's poetry in his maturer years:

"When old Timotheus struck the vocal string,
Ambitious fury fir'd the Grecian king:
Unbounded projects lab'ring in his mind,
He pants for room, in one poor world confin'd.
Thus wak'd to rage by musick's dreadful power,
He bids the sword destroy, the flame devour.
Had Stella's gentle touches mov'd the lyre,
Soon had the monarch felt a nobler fire;
No more delighted with disastrous war,
Ambitious only now to please the fair,
Resign'd his thirst of empire to her charms,
And found a thousand worlds in Stella's arms."—M.]



lines which he wrote for his friend Mr. Edmund Hector.

Verses *to a* Lady, *on receiving from her a* Sprig *of* Myrtle.

" What hopes, what terrours does thy gift create,
Ambiguous emblem of uncertain fate!
The myrtle, ensign of supreme command,
Consign'd by Venus to Melissa's hand;
Not less capricious than a reigning fair,
Now grants, and now rejects a lover's prayer.
In myrtle shades oft sings the happy swain,
In myrtle shades despairing ghosts complain:
The myrtle crowns the happy lovers' heads,
The unhappy lover's grave the myrtle spreads;
O then the meaning of thy gift impart,
And ease the throbbings of an anxious heart!
Soon must this bough, as you shall fix his doom,
Adorn Philander's head, or grace his tomb." [1]

[1] Mrs. Piozzi gives the following account of this little composition from Dr. Johnson's own relation to her, on her inquiring whether it was rightly attributed to him. —"I think it is now just forty years ago, that a young fellow had a sprig of myrtle given him by a girl he courted, and asked me to write him some verses that he might present her in return. I promised, but forgot; and when he called for his lines at the time agreed on—Sit still a moment, (says I) dear Mund, and I'll fetch them thee—So stepped aside for five minutes, and wrote the nonsense you now keep such a stir about." *Anecdotes*, p. 34.

In my first edition I was induced to doubt the authenticity of this account, by the following circumstantial

formed no criminal connection whatsoever." Mr. Hector, who lived with him in his younger days in the utmost intimacy and social freedom, has assured me, that even at that ardent season his conduct was strictly virtuous in that respect; and that though he

statement in a letter to me from Miss Seward, of Lichfield:—"I *know* those verses were addressed to Lucy Porter, when he was enamoured of her in his boyish days, two or three years before he had seen her mother, his future wife. He wrote them at my grandfather's, and gave them to Lucy in the presence of my mother, to whom he shewed them on the instant. She used to repeat them to me, when I asked her for *the Verses Dr. Johnson gave her on a Sprig of Myrtle, which he had stolen or begged from her bosom.* We all know honest Lucy Porter to have been incapable of the mean vanity of applying to herself a compliment not *intended* for her." Such was this lady's statement, which I make no doubt she supposed to be correct; but it shews how dangerous it is to trust too implicitly to traditional testimony and ingenious inference; for Mr. Hector has lately assured me that Mrs. Piozzi's account is in this instance accurate, and that he was the person for whom Johnson wrote those verses, which have been erroneously ascribed to Mr. Hammond.

I am obliged in so many instances to notice Mrs. Piozzi's incorrectness of relation, that I gladly seize this opportunity of acknowledging, that however often, she is not always inaccurate.

The authour having been drawn into a controversy with Miss Anna Seward, in consequence of the preceding statement (which may be found in "the Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. lxiii and lxiv,) received the following letter from Mr. Edmund Hector, on the subject:

"DEAR SIR,

"I am sorry to see you are engaged in altercation with a Lady, who seems unwilling to be convinced of

In a man whom religious education has secured from licentious indulgences, the passion of love, when once it has seized him, is exceedingly strong; being unimpaired by dissipation, and totally concentrated in one object. This was experienced by Johnson, when he became the fervent admirer of Mrs. Porter, after her first husband's death.[1] Miss

her errors. Surely it would be more ingenuous to acknowledge than to persevere.

"Lately, in looking over some papers I meant to burn, I found the original manuscript of the myrtle, with the date on it, 1731, which I have inclosed.

"The true history (which I could swear to) is as follows: Mr. Morgan Graves, the elder brother of a worthy Clergyman near Bath, with whom I was acquainted, waited upon a Lady in this neighbourhood, who at parting presented him the branch. He shewed it me, and wished much to return the compliment in verse, I applied to Johnson, who was with me, and in about half an hour dictated the verses which I sent to my friend.

"I most solemnly declare, at that time, Johnson was an entire stranger to the Porter family; and it was almost two years after that I introduced him to the acquaintance of Porter, whom I bought my cloaths of.

"If you intend to convince this obstinate woman, and to exhibit to the publick the truth of your narrative, you are at liberty to make what use you please of this statement.

"I hope you will pardon me for taking up so much of your time. Wishing you *multos et felices annos*, I shall subscribe myself

"Your obliged humble servant,

"*Birmingham*, "E. HECTOR."

Jan. 9th, 1794.

[1] [It appears, from Mr. Hector's letter, that Johnson became acquainted with her three years before he married her.—M.]



he was then lean and lank, so that his immense structure of bones was hideously striking to the eye, and the scars of the scrophula were deeply visible. He also wore his hair, which was straight and stiff, and separated behind: and he often had, seemingly, convulsive starts and odd gesticulations, which tended to excite at once surprise and ridicule. Mrs. Porter was so much engaged by his conversation that she overlooked all these external disadvantages, and said to her daughter, "this is the most sensible man that I ever saw in my life."

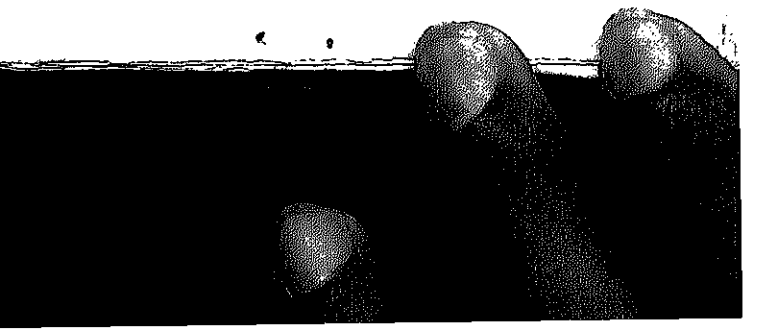
Though Mrs. Porter was double the age of Johnson,[1] and her person and manner, as described to me by the late Mr. Garrick, were by no means

[1] [Mrs. Johnson's maiden name was Jervis.—Though there was a great disparity of years between her and Dr. Johnson, she was not quite so old as she is here represented, having only completed her forty-eighth year in the month of February preceding her marriage, as appears by the following extract from the parish-register of Great Peatling in Leicestershire, which was obligingly made at my request, by the Hon. and Rev. Mr. Ryder, Rector of Lutterworth, in that county:

"Anno Dom. 1688[-9] Elizabeth, the daughter of William Jervis, Esq. and Mrs. Anne his wife, born the fourth day of February and *manè*, baptized 16th day of the same month by Mr. Smith, Curate of Little Peatling.

"John Allen, Vicar."

The family of Jervis, Mr. Ryder informs me, once possessed nearly the whole lordship of Great Peatling, (about 1000 acres,) and there are many monuments of them in the Church; but the estate is now much reduced. The present representative of this ancient family is Mr. Charles Jervis, of Hinckley, Attorney at Law.—M.]



spired him with a more than ordinary passion; and
she having signified her willingness to accept of his
hand, he went to Lichfield to ask his mother's

[1] [That in Johnson's eyes she was handsome, appears from the epitaph which he caused to be inscribed on her tomb-stone not long before his own death, and which may be found in a subsequent page, under the year 1752.—M.]

[2] [The following account of Mrs. Johnson, and her family, is copied from a paper (chiefly relating to Mrs. Anna Williams) written by Lady Knight at Rome, and transmitted by her to the late John Hoole, Esq. the translator of Metastasio, &c. by whom it was inserted in the European Magazine for October 1799:

"Mrs. Williams's account of Mrs. Johnson was, that she had a good understanding, and great sensibility, but inclined to be satirical. Her first husband died insolvent; her sons were much disgusted with her for her second marriage, perhaps because they being struggling to get advanced in life, were mortified to think she had allied herself to a man who had not any visible means of being useful to them; however, she always retained her affection for them. While they [Dr. and Mrs. Johnson] resided in Gough Square, her son, the officer, knocked at the door, and asked the maid, if her mistress was at home. She answered, 'Yes, Sir; but she is sick in bed.' 'O,' says he, 'if it's so, tell her that her son Jervis, called to know how she did;' and was going away. The maid begged she might run up to tell her mistress, and without attending his answer, left him. Mrs. Johnson enraptured to hear her son was below, desired the maid to tell him she longed to embrace him. When the maid descended, the gentleman was gone, and poor Mrs. Johnson was much agitated by the adventure: it was the only time he ever made an effort to see her. Dr. Johnson did all he could to console his wife, but told Mrs. Williams, 'Her son is uniformly undutiful; so I conclude, like many other sober men, he might once in

of fortune. But Mrs. Johnson knew too well the ardour of her son's temper, and was too tender a parent to oppose his inclinations.

I know not for what reason the marriage ceremony was not performed at Birmingham; but a resolution was taken that it should be at Derby, for which place the bride and bridegroom set out on horseback, I suppose in very good humour. But though Mr. Topham Beauclerk used archly to mention Johnson's having told him with much

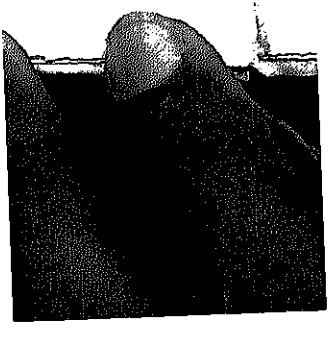
his life be drunk, and in that fit nature got the better of his pride.'"

The following anecdotes of Dr. Johnson are recorded by the same lady;

"One day that he came to my house to meet many others, we told him that we had arranged our party to go to Westminster Abbey: would not he go with us? '*No*,' he replied, '*not while I can keep out.*'

"Upon our saying that the friends of a lady had been in great fear lest she should make a certain match, he said, 'We that are *his* friends have had great fears for him.'

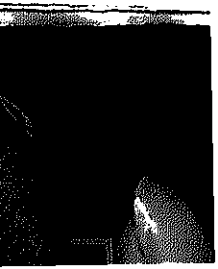
"Dr. Johnson's political principles ran high, both in church and state: he wished power to the King and to the Heads of the Church, as the laws of England have established; but I know he disliked absolute power; and I am very sure of his disapprobation of the doctrines of the church of Rome; because about three weeks before we came abroad, he said to my Cornelia, 'you are going where the ostentatious pomp of church ceremonies attracts the imagination; but if they want to persuade you to change, you must remember, that by increasing your faith, you may be persuaded to become Turk.' If these were not the words, I have kept up to the express meaning."—M.]



curious account of their journey to church upon the nuptial morn:—"Sir, she had read the old romances, and had got into her head the fantastical notion that a woman of spirit should use her lover like a dog. So, Sir, at first she told me that I rode too fast, and she could not keep up with me: and, when I rode a little slower, she passed me, and complained that I lagged behind. I was not to be made the slave of caprice; and I resolved to begin as I meant to end. I therefore pushed on briskly, till I was fairly out of her sight. The road lay between two hedges, so I was sure she could not miss it; and I contrived that she should soon come up with me. When she did, I observed her to be in tears."

This it must be allowed, was a singular beginning of connubial felicity; but there is no doubt that Johnson, though he thus shewed a manly firmness, proved a most affectionate and indulgent husband to the last moment of Mrs. Johnson's life: and in his "Prayers and Meditations," we find very remarkable evidence that his regard and fondness for her never ceased, even after her death.

He now set up a private academy, for which purpose he hired a large house, well situated near his native city. In the Gentleman's Magazine for 1736, there is the following advertisement: "At Edial, near Lichfield, in Staffordshire, young gentlemen are boarded and taught the Latin and Greek languages, by SAMUEL JOHNSON." But the only pupils that were put under his care were the celebrated David Garrick and his brother George, and



elements

highest attention and respect of mankind. Had such an advertisement appeared after the publication of his LONDON, or his RAMBLER, or his DICTIONARY, how would it have burst upon the world! with what eagerness would the great and the wealthy have embraced an opportunity of putting their sons under the learned tuition of SAMUEL JOHNSON. The truth, however, is, that he was not so well qualified for being a teacher of elements, and a conductor in learning by regular gradations, as men of inferiour powers of mind. His own acquisitions had been made by fits and starts, by violent irruptions into the regions of knowledge; and it could not be expected that his impatience would be subdued, and his impetuosity restrained, so as to fit him for a quiet guide to novices. The art of communicating instruction, of whatever kind, is much to be valued; and I have ever thought that those who devote themselves to this employment, and do their duty with diligence and success, are entitled to very high respect from the community, as Johnson himself often maintained. Yet I am of opinion, that the greatest abilities are not only not required for this office, but render a man less fit for it.

While we acknowledge the justness of Thomson's beautiful remark,

> "Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,
> And teach the young idea how to shoot!"

we must consider that this delight is perceptible only by "a mind at ease," a mind at once calm

of the school

time in minute attention, and must be so frently irritated by unavoidable slowness and errour he advances of scholars, as to perform the duty, h little pleasure to the teacher, and no great antage to the pupils. Good temper is a most ential requisite in a Preceptor. Horace paints character as *bland*:

" —— *Ut pueris olim dant crustula* blandi
Doctores, elementa velint ut discere prima."

Johnson was not more satisfied with his situation he master of an academy, than with that of the er of a school; we need not wonder, therefore, t he did not keep his academy above a year and alf. From Mr. Garrick's account he did not ear to have been profoundly reverenced by his ils. His oddities of manner, and uncouth gestiations, could not but be the subject of merriment hem; and in particular, the young rogues used isten at the door of his bed-chamber, and peep ough the key-hole, that they might turn into cule his tumultuous and awkward fondness for s. Johnson, whom he used to name by the famiappellation of *Tetty* or *Tetsey*, which, like *Betty Betsey*, is provincially used as a contraction for *zabeth*, her christian name, but which to us ms ludicrous, when applied to a woman of her and appearance. Mr. Garrick described her to as very fat, with a bosom of more than ordinary tuberance, with swelled cheeks, of a florid red, duced by thick painting, and increased by the eral use of cordials; flaring and fantastick in her

to excite the heartiest bursts of laughter; but he probably, as is the case in all such representations considerably aggravated the picture.

That Johnson well knew the most proper course to be pursued in the instruction of youth, is authentically ascertained by the following paper in his own hand-writing, given about this period to a relation and now in the possession of Mr. John Nichols:

"SCHEME *for the* CLASSES *of a* GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

"WHEN the introduction, or formation of noun and verbs, is perfectly mastered, let them learn

"Corderius by Mr. Clarke, beginning at the same time to translate out of the introduction, that by this means they may learn the syntax. Then let them proceed to

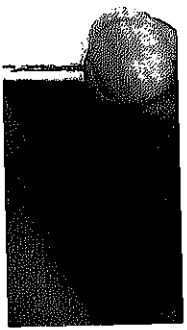
"Erasmus, with an English translation, by the same authour.

"Class II. Learns Eutropius and Cornelius Nepos, or Justin, with the translation.

"N. B. The first class gets for their part every morning the rules which they have learned before, and in the afternoon learns the Latin rules of the nouns and verbs.

"They are examined in the rules which they have learned, every Thursday and Saturday.

"The second class does the same whilst they are in Eutropius; afterwards their part is in the irregular nouns and verbs, and in the rules for making and scanning verses. They are examined as the first.



"Practise in the Latin rules till they are perfect in them; afterwards in Mr. Leeds's Greek Grammar. Examined as before.

"Afterwards they proceed to Virgil, beginning at the same time to write themes and verses, and to learn Greek; from thence passing on to Horace, &c. as shall seem most proper.

"I know not well what books to direct you to, because you have not informed me what study you will apply yourself to. I believe it will be most for your advantage to apply yourself wholly to the languages, till you go to the university. The Greek authours I think it best for you to read are these:

"Cebes.	
"Ælian.	Attick.
"Lucian by Leeds.	Attick.
"Xenophon.	Attick.
"Homer.	Ionick.
"Theocritus.	Dorick.
"Euripides.	Attick and Dorick.

"Thus you will be tolerably skilled in all the dialects, beginning with the Attick, to which the rest must be referred.

"In the study of Latin, it is proper not to read the latter authours, till you are well versed in those of the purest ages; as Terence, Tully, Cæsar, Sallust, Nepos, Velleius Paterculus, Virgil, Horace, Phædrus.

"The greatest and most necessary task still remains, to attain a habit of expression, without which knowledge is of little use. This is necessary in

rick go to London

rectest authours.

"Sam. Johnson."

While Johnson kept his academy, there can be no doubt that he was insensibly furnishing his mind with various knowledge; but I have not discovered that he wrote any thing except a great part of his tragedy of Irene. Mr. Peter Garrick, the elder brother of David, told me that he remembered Johnson's borrowing the Turkish History of him, in order to form his play from it. When he had finished some part of it, he read what he had done to Mr. Walmsley, who objected to his having already brought his heroine into great distress, and asked him, "how can you possibly contrive to plunge her into deeper calamity!" Johnson, in sly allusion to the supposed oppressive proceedings of the court of which Mr. Walmsley was registrar, replied, "Sir, I can put her into the Spiritual Court!"

Mr. Walmsley, however, was well pleased with this proof of Johnson's abilities as a dramatick writer, and advised him to finish the tragedy, and produce it on the stage.

Johnson now thought of trying his fortune in London, the great field of genius and exertion, where talents of every kind have the fullest scope, and the highest encouragement. It is a memorable circumstance that his pupil David Garrick went thither at the same time,[1] with intent to complete

[1] Both of them used to talk pleasantly of this their first journey to London. Garrick, evidently meaning to embellish a little, said one day in my hearing, 'we rode and tied.' And the Bishop of Killaloe [Dr. Barnard]

preference for the stage.

This joint expedition of those two eminent men to the metropolis, was many years afterwards noticed in an allegorical poem on Shakspeare's Mulberry-tree, by Mr. Lovibond, the ingenious authour of "The Tears of Old-May-day."

They were recommended to Mr. Colson,[1] an eminent mathematician and master of an academy, by the following letter from Mr. Walmsley:

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informed me, that at another time, when Johnson and Garrick were dining together in a pretty large company, Johnson humorously ascertaining the chronology of something, expressed himself thus: "that was the year when I came to London with two-pence half-penny in my pocket." Garrick overhearing him, exclaimed, "eh? what do you say? with two-pence half-penny in your pocket?"—Johnson. "Why, yes; when I came with two-pence half-penny in *my* pocket, and thou, Davy, with three half-pence in thine."

[1] [The Reverend John Colson was bred at Emmanuel College in Cambridge, and in 1728, when George the Second visited that University, was created Master of Arts. About that time he became First Master of the Free School at Rochester, founded by Sir Joseph Williamson. In 1739, he was appointed Lucasian Professor of Mathematics in the University of Cambridge, on the death of Professor Sanderson, and held that office till 1759, when he died. He published Lectures on Experimental Philosophy, translated from the French of l'Abbè Nodet, 8vo. 1732, and some other tracts. Our authour, it is believed, was mistaken in stating him to have been Master of an Academy. Garrick, probably, during his short residence at Rochester, lived in his house as a private pupil.

The character of Gelidus, the philosopher, in the Rambler, (No. 24) was meant to represent this gentleman. See Mrs. Piozzi's Anecdotes, &c. p. 49.—M.]

sley's prophecy

"DEAR SIR, Lichfield, March 2, 1737.

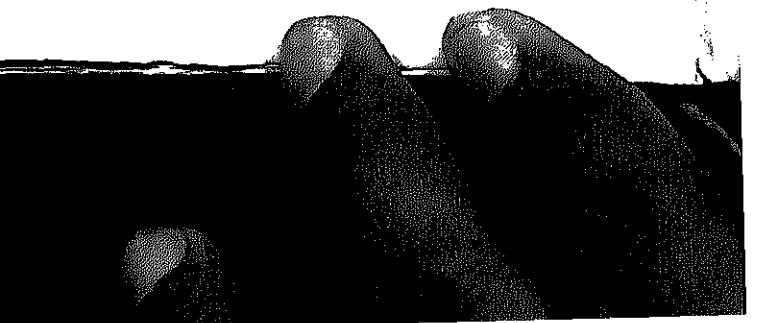
"I had the favour of yours, and am extremely obliged to you; but I cannot say I had a greater affection for you upon it than I had before, being long since so much endeared to you, as well by an early friendship, as by your many excellent and valuable qualifications; and, had I a son of my own, it would be my ambition, instead of sending him to the University, to dispose of him as this young gentleman is.

"He, and another neighbour of mine, one Mr. Samuel Johnson, set out this morning for London together. Davy Garrick is to be with you early the next week, and Mr. Johnson to try his fate with a tragedy, and to see to get himself employed in some translation, either from the Latin or the French. Johnson is a very good scholar and poet, and I have great hopes will turn out a fine tragedy-writer. If it should any way lie in your way, doubt not but you would be ready to recommend and assist your countryman."

"G. WALMSLEY."

How he employed himself upon his first coming to London is not particularly known.[1] I never

[1] One curious anecdote was communicated by himself to Mr. John Nichols. Mr. Wilcox, the bookseller, on being informed by him that his intention was to get his livelihood as an authour, eyed his robust frame attentively, and with a significant look, said, "You had better buy a porter's knot." He however added, "Wilcox was one of my best friends."



academy David Garrick went. Mrs. Lucy Porter told me, that Mr. Walmsley gave him a letter of introduction to Lintot his bookseller, and that Johnson wrote some things for him; but I imagine this to be a mistake, for I have discovered no trace of it, and I am pretty sure he told me, that Mr. Cave was the first publisher by whom his pen was engaged in London.

He had a little money when he came to town, and he knew how he could live in the cheapest manner. His first lodgings were at the house of Mr. Norris, a staymaker, in Exeter-street, adjoining Catharine-street, in the Strand. "I dined (said he) very well for eight-pence, with very good company, at the Pine-Apple in New-street, just by. Several of them had travelled. They expected to meet every day; but did not know one another's names. It used to cost the rest a shilling, for they drank wine; but I had a cut of meat for six-pence, and bread for a penny, and gave the waiter a penny; so that I was quite well served, nay, better than the rest, for they gave the waiter nothing."

He at this time, I believe, abstained entirely from fermented liquors: a practice to which he rigidly conformed for many years together, at different periods of his life.

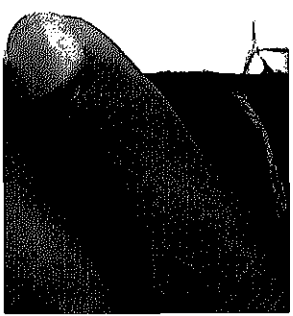
His Ofellus in the *Art of Living in London*, I have heard him relate, was an Irish painter, whom he knew at Birmingham, and who had practised his own precepts of economy for several years in the British capital. He assured Johnson, who, I suppose, was then meditating to try his fortune in-

pence

thirty pounds a year

live there without being contemptible. He allowed ten pounds for cloaths and linen. He said a man might live in a garret at eighteen-pence a week; few people would inquire where he lodged; and if they did, it was easy to say, 'Sir, I am to be found at such a place.' By spending three-pence in a coffee-house, he might be for some hours every day in very good company; he might dine for six-pence, breakfast on bread and milk for a penny, and do without supper. On *clean-shirt-day* he went abroad, and paid visits." I have heard him more than once talk of his frugal friend, whom he recollected with esteem and kindness, and did not like to have one smile at the recital. "This man (said he, gravely) was a very sensible man, who perfectly understood common affairs: a man of a great deal of knowledge of the world, fresh from life, not strained through books. He borrowed a horse and ten pounds at Birmingham. Finding himself master of so much money, he set off for West Chester, in order to get to Ireland. He returned the horse, and probably the ten pounds too, after he got home."

Considering Johnson's narrow circumstances in the early part of his life, and particularly at the interesting æra of his launching into the ocean of London, it is not to be wondered at, that an actual instance, proved by experience, of the possibility of enjoying the intellectual luxury of social life upon a very small income, should deeply engage his attention, and be ever recollected by him as a circumstance of much importance. He amused himself, I remember, by computing how much



hen the value of money was diminished by the rogress of commerce. It may be estimated that ouble the money might now with difficulty be fficient.

Amidst this cold obscurity, there was one brilliant rcumstance to cheer him; he was well acquainted ith Mr. Henry Hervey,[1] one of the branches of he noble family of that name, who had been quar-ered at Lichfield as an officer of the army, and nd at this time a house in London, where Johnson as frequently entertained, and had an opportunity f meeting genteel company. Not very long before is death, he mentioned this, among other particu-rs of his life, which he was kindly communicating o me; and he described this early friend "Harry Iervey," thus: "He was a vicious man, but very ind to me. If you call a dog HERVEY, I shall ve him."

He told me he had now written only three acts

[1] The Honourable Henry Hervey, third son of the st Earl of Bristol, quitted the army and took orders. e married a sister of Sir Thomas Aston, by whom he ot the Aston Estate, and assumed the name and arms f that family. Vide Collins's Peerage.

[The Honourable Henry Hervey was nearly of the me age with Johnson, having been born about nine onths before him, in the year 1709. He married atharine, the sister of Sir Thomas Aston, in 1739; and that lady had seven sisters, she probably succeeded the Aston Estate on the death of her brother under is will. Mr. Hervey took the degree of Master of rts at Cambridge, at the late age of thirty-five, in 1744; bout which time, it is believed, he entered into holy rders.—M.]

the Park; but did not stay long enough at that place to finish it.

At this period we find the following letter from him to Mr. Edward Cave, which, as a link in the chain of his literary history, it is proper to insert:

"To Mr. Cave.

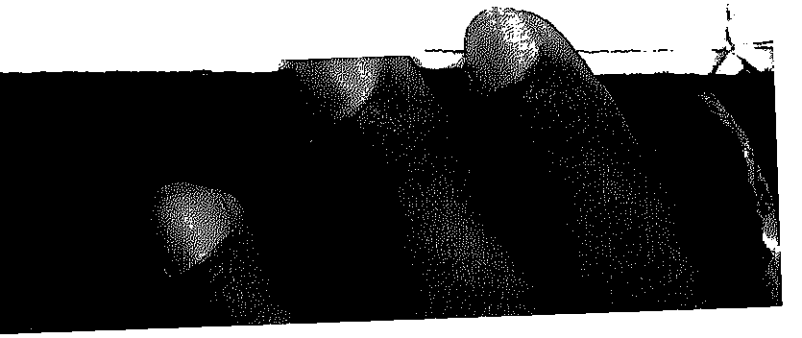
"Greenwich, next door to the Golden Heart, Church-street, July 12, 1737.

"Sir,

"Having observed in your papers very uncommon offers of encouragement to men of letters, I have chosen, being a stranger in London, to communicate to you the following design, which, I hope, if you join in it, will be of advantage to both of us.

"The History of the Council of Trent having been lately translated into French, and published with large Notes by Dr. Le Courayer, the reputation of that book is so much revived in England, that, it is presumed, a new translation of it from the Italian, together with Le Courayer's Notes from the French, could not fail of a favourable reception.

"If it be answered, that the History is already in English, it must be remembered, that there was the same objection against Le Courayer's undertaking, with this disadvantage, that the French had a version by one of their best translators, whereas you cannot read three pages of the English History without discovering that the style is capable of great



from the specimen, which, if you approve the proposal, I shall submit to your examination. field

"Suppose the merit of the versions equal, we may hope that the addition of the Notes will turn the balance in our favour, considering the reputation of the Annotator.

"Be pleased to favour me with a speedy answer, if you are not willing to engage in this scheme; and appoint me a day to wait upon you, if you are.

"I am, Sir,

"Your humble servant,

"SAM. JOHNSON."

It should seem from this letter, though subscribed with his own name, that he had not yet been introduced to Mr. Cave. We shall presently see what was done in consequence of the proposal which it contains.

In the course of the summer he returned to Lichfield, where he had left Mrs. Johnson, and there he at last finished his tragedy, which was not executed with his rapidity of composition upon other occasions, but was slowly and painfully elaborated. A few days before his death, while burning a great mass of papers, he picked out from among them the original unformed sketch of this tragedy, in his own hand-writing, and gave it to Mr. Langton, by whose favour a copy of it is now in my possession. It contains fragments of the intended plot, and speeches for the different persons of the drama, partly in the raw materials of prose, partly worked up into verse; as also a variety of hints for illustration, borrowed from the Greek, Roman, and

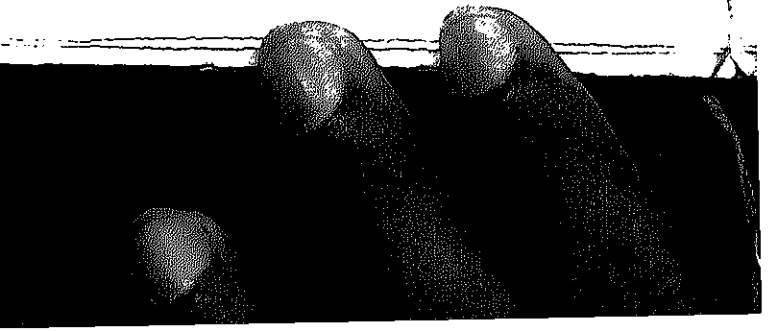
which at all times was very particular. The King having graciously accepted of this manuscript as a literary curiosity, Mr. Langton made a fair and distinct copy of it, which he ordered to be bound up with the original and the printed tragedy; and the volume is deposited in the King's library. His Majesty was pleased to permit Mr. Langton to take a copy of it for himself.

The whole of it is rich in thought and imagery, and happy expressions; and of the *disjecta membra* scattered throughout, and as yet unarranged, a good dramatic poet might avail himself with considerable advantage. I shall give my readers some specimens of different kinds, distinguishing them by the Italick character.

" *Nor think to say here will I stop,*
Here will I fix the limits of transgression,
Nor farther tempt the avenging rage of heaven.
When guilt like this once harbours in the breast,
Those holy beings, whose unseen direction
Guides through the maze of life the steps of man,
Fly the detested mansions of impiety,
And quit their charge to horrour and to ruin."

A small part only of this interesting admonition is preserved in the play, and is varied, I think, not to advantage:

" The soul once tainted with so foul a crime,
No more shall glow with friendship's hallow'd
ardour,



Affrighted at impiety like thine,
Resign their charge to baseness and to ruin."

" I feel the soft infection
Flush in my cheek, and wander in my veins.
Teach me the Grecian arts of soft persuasion."

" Sure this is love, which heretofore I conceived the dream of idle maids, and wanton poets."

" Though no comets or prodigies foretold the ruin of Greece, signs which heaven must by another miracle enable us to understand, yet might it be foreshewn, by tokens no less certain, by the vices which always bring it on."

This last passage is worked up in the tragedy itself, as follows:

LEONTIUS.

" —— That power that kindly spreads
The clouds, a signal of impending showers,
To warn the wand'ring linnet to the shade,
Beheld, without concern, expiring Greece,
And not one prodigy foretold our fate.

DEMETRIUS.

" A thousand horrid prodigies foretold it;
A feeble government, eluded laws,
A factious populace, luxurious nobles,
And all the maladies of sinking States.
When public villainy, too strong for justice,
Shews his bold front, the harbinger of ruin,
Can brave Leontius call for airy wonders,

The weight of years, and totters to the tempest,
Must heaven despatch the messengers of light,
Or wake the dead, to warn us of its fall?"

MAHOMET (to IRENE). "*I have tried thee, and joy to find that thou deservest to be loved by Mahomet, —with a mind great as his own. Sure, thou art an errour of nature, and an exception to the rest of thy sex, and art immortal; for sentiments like thine were never to sink into nothing. I thought all the thoughts of the fair had been to select the graces of the day, dispose the colours of the flaunting (flowing) robe, tune the voice and roll the eye, place the gem, choose the dress, and add new roses to the fading cheek, but —sparkling.*"

Thus in the tragedy:

"Illustrious maid, new wonders fix me thine;
Thy soul completes the triumphs of thy face;
I thought, forgive my fair, the noblest aim,
The strongest effort of a female soul
Was but to choose the graces of the day;
To tune the tongue, to teach the eyes to roll,
Dispose the colours of the flowing robe,
And add new roses to the faded cheek."

I shall select one other passage, on account of the doctrine which it illustrates. IRENE observes, "*that the Supreme Being will accept of virtue, whatever outward circumstances it may be accompanied with, and may be delighted with varieties of worship:* but is answered; *That variety cannot affect that Being, who, infinitely happy in his own perfections,*



ves in darkness, he abandons those against the beams of day."

nce at Lichfield, on his return to
s only for three months; and as
but a small part of the wonders
he had little to tell his townsmen.
the following minute anecdote of
the last age, when my mother
there were two sets of people,
e wall, and those who took it;
the quarrelsome. When I re-
l, after having been in London,
me, whether I was one of those
or those who took it. *Now* it
man keeps to the right; or, if
vall, another yields it; and it is

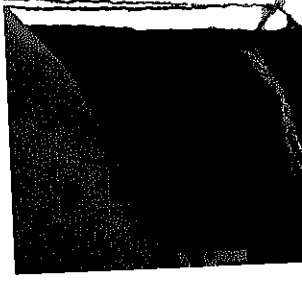
l to London with Mrs. Johnson;
ho had lived with them at Edial,
relations in the country. His
ome time in Woodstock-street,
re, and afterwards in Castle-
ield-square. As there is some-
reating, to many, in tracing so
1 all his different habitations, I
/ork is concluded, present my
:xact list of his lodgings and
time, which, in placid conde-
ectful curiosity, he one evening
without specifying how long he

our to the Hebrides, Sep. 20.

ing of particular parts of his works. To some, this minute attention may appear trifling; but when we consider the punctilious exactness with which the different houses in which Milton resided have been traced by the writers of his life, a similar enthusiasm may be pardoned in the biographer of Johnson.

His tragedy being by this time, as he thought, completely finished and fit for the stage, he was very desirous that it should be brought forward. Mr. Peter Garrick told me, that Johnson and he went together to the Fountain tavern, and read it over, and that he afterwards solicited Mr. Fleetwood, the patentee of Drury-lane theatre, to have it acted at his house; but Mr. Fleetwood would not accept it, probably because it was not patronized by some man of high rank; and it was not acted till 1749, when his friend David Garrick was manager of that theatre.

The GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, begun and carried on by Mr. Edward Cave, under the name of SYLVANUS URBAN, had attracted the notice and esteem of Johnson, in an eminent degree, before he came to London as an adventurer in literature. He told me, that when he first saw St. John's Gate, the place where that deservedly popular miscellany was originally printed, he "beheld it with reverence." I suppose, indeed, that every young authour has had the same kind of feeling for the magazine or periodical publication which has first entertained him, and in which he has first had an opportunity to see himself in print, without the risk



been ever conducted with judgement, accuracy, and propriety. I yet cannot help thinking of it with an affectionate regard. Johnson has dignified the Gentleman's Magazine, by the importance with which he invests the life of Cave; but he has given it still greater lustre by the various admirable Essays which he wrote for it.

Though Johnson was often solicited by his friends to make a complete list of his writings, and talked of doing it, I believe with a serious intention that they should all be collected on his own account, he put it off from year to year, and at last died without having done it perfectly. I have one in his own hand-writing, which contains a certain number; I indeed doubt if he could have remembered every one of them, as they were so numerous, so various, and scattered in such a multiplicity of unconnected publications; nay, several of them published under the names of other persons, to whom he liberally contributed from the abundance of his mind. We must, therefore, be content to discover them, partly from occasional information given by him to his friends, and partly from internal evidence.[1]

[1] While in the course of my narrative I enumerate his writings, I shall take care that my readers shall not be left to waver in doubt, between certainty and conjecture, with regard to their authenticity; and, for that purpose, shall mark with an *asterisk* (*) those which he acknowledged to his friends, and with a *dagger* (†) those which are ascertained to be his by internal evidence. When any other pieces are ascribed to him, I shall give my reasons.

banum" for employment and support, was a copy of Latin verses, in March 1738, addressed to the editor in so happy a style of compliment, that Cave must have been destitute both of taste and sensibility, had he not felt himself highly gratified.

Ad URBANUM.*

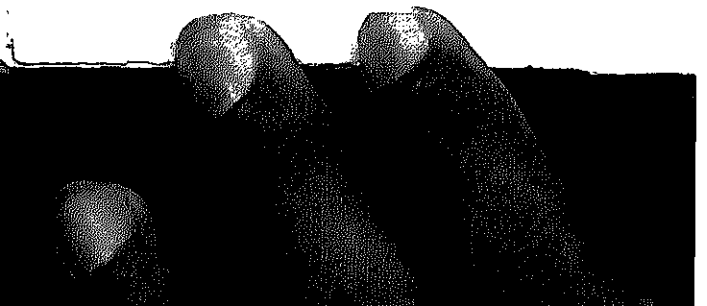
URBANE, *nullis fesse laboribus,*
URBANE, *nullis victe calumniis,*
Cui fronte sertum in eruditâ
Perpetuò viret et virebit;

Quid moliatur gens imitantium,
Quid et minetur, solicitus parùm,
Vacare solis perge Musis,
Juxta animo studiisque felix.

Linguæ procacis plumbea spicula,
Fidens, superbo frange silentio;
Victrix per obstantes catervas
Sedulitas animosa tendet.

Intende nervos, fortis, inanibus
Risurus olim nisibus æmuli;
Intende jam nervos, habebis
Participes operæ Camœnas.

Non ulla Musis pagina gratior,
Quam quæ severis ludicra jungere
Novit, fatigatamque nugis
Utilibus recreare mentem.



Immista, sic Iris refulget
Æthereis variata fucis.[1] S. J.

[1] A translation of this Ode, by an unknown correspondent, appeared in the Magazine for the month of May following:

"Hail URBAN! indefatigable man,
Unwearied yet by all thy useful toil!
Whom *num'rous slanderers assault in vain*;
Whom no base calumny can put to foil.
But still the laurel on thy learned brow
Flourishes fair, and shall for ever grow.

"What mean the servile imitating crew,
What their vain blust'ring, and their empty noise,
Ne'er seek: but still thy noble ends pursue,
Unconquer'd *by the rabble's venal voice*,
Still to the Muse thy studious mind apply,
Happy in temper as in industry.

"The senseless sneerings of an haughty tongue,
Unworthy thy attention to engage,
Unheeded pass: and tho' they mean thee wrong,
By manly silence disappoint their rage.
Assiduous diligence confounds its foes,
Resistless, tho' malicious crowds oppose.

"Exert thy powers, nor slacken in the course,
Thy spotless fame shall quash all false reports:
Exert thy powers, nor fear a rival's force,
But thou shalt smile at all his vain efforts;
Thy labours shall be crown'd with large success:
The Muse's aid thy Magazine shall bless.

"No page more grateful to th' harmonious nine
Than that wherein thy labours we survey;
Where solemn themes in fuller splendour shine,
(Delightful mixture,) blended with the gay,

At what time, or by what means, he had acquired a competent knowledge both of French and Italian, I do not know; but he was so well skilled in them, as to be sufficiently qualified for a translator. That part of his labour which consisted in emendation and improvement of the productions of other contributors, like that employed in levelling ground, can be perceived only by those who had an opportunity of comparing the original with the altered copy. What we certainly know to have been done by him in this way, was the Debates in both houses of Parliament, under the name of "The Senate of Lilliput," sometimes with feigned denominations of the several speakers, sometimes with denominations formed of the letters of their real names, in the manner of what is called anagram, so that they might easily be decyphered. Parliament then kept the press in a kind of mysterious awe, which made it necessary to have recourse to such devices. In our time it has acquired an unrestrained freedom, so that the people in all parts of the kingdom have a fair, open, and exact report of

Where in improving, various joys we find,
A welcome respite to the wearied mind.

"Thus when the nymphs in some fair verdant mead,
Of various flow'rs a beauteous wreath compose,
The lovely violet's azure-painted head
Adds lustre to the crimson-blushing rose.
Thus splendid Iris, with her varied dye,
Shines in the æther, and adorns the sky.
"BRITON."



h, unquestionably, there has of
reason to complain of the petu-
obscure scribblers have presumed
most respectable character and

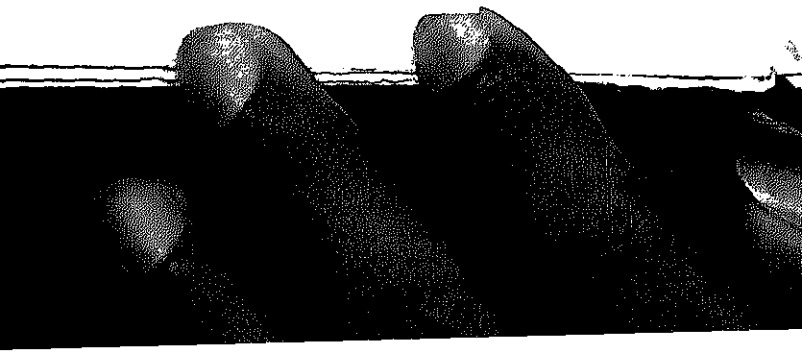
rticle of the Gentleman's Maga-
l years, executed by Mr. Wil-
n who deserves to be respectably
ary annals of this country. He
an ancient family in Scotland;
patrimony, and being an adhe-
nate house of Stuart, he could
ffice in the state; he therefore
and employed his talents and
Authour by profession." His
criticism, and politicks, had
He was the first English his-
urse to that authentick source of
liamentary Journals; and such
political pen, that, at an early
thought it worth their while to
pension, which he enjoyed till
esteemed him enough to wish
be written. The debates in
ere brought home and digested
memory, though surpassed by

he wrote, I know not; but he
was the authour of the beautiful
e and Robin Redbreast," in the
itled, "The Union," though it is
n by Archibald Scott, before the

sent by Cave to Johnson for his revision; and, after some time, when Guthrie had attained to greater variety of employment, and the speeches were more and more enriched by the accession of Johnson's genius, it was resolved that he should do the whole himself, from the scanty notes furnished by persons employed to attend in both houses of Parliament. Sometimes, however, as he himself told me, he had nothing more communicated to him than the names of the several speakers, and the part which they had taken in the debate.

Thus was Johnson employed during some of the best years of his life, as a mere literary labourer "for gain, not glory," solely to obtain an honest support. He however indulged himself in occasional little sallies, which the French so happily express by the term *jeux d'esprit*, and which will be noticed in their order, in the progress of this work.

But what first displayed his transcendent powers, and "gave the world assurance of the MAN," was his "LONDON, a Poem, in Imitation of the Third Satire of Juvenal;" which came out in May this year, and burst forth with a splendour, the rays of which will for ever encircle his name. Boileau had imitated the same satire with great success, applying it to Paris: but an attentive comparison will satisfy every reader, that he is much excelled by the English Juvenal. Oldham had also imitated it, and applied it to London: all which performances concur to prove, that great cities, in every age, and in every country, will furnish similar topicks



not a little remarkable, that there is scarcely any coincidence found between the two performances, though upon the very same subject. The only instances are, in describing London as the *sink* of foreign worthlessness:

ham com-
pared

"—— the *common shore*,
Where France does all her filth and ordure pour."
OLDHAM.

"The *common shore* of Paris and of Rome."
JOHNSON.

and,

"No calling or profession comes amiss,
A *needy monsieur* can be what he please."
OLDHAM.

"All sciences a *fasting monsieur* knows."
JOHNSON.

The particulars which Oldham has collected, both as exhibiting the horrours of London, and of the times, contrasted with better days, are different from those of Johnson, and in general well chosen, and well exprest.[1]

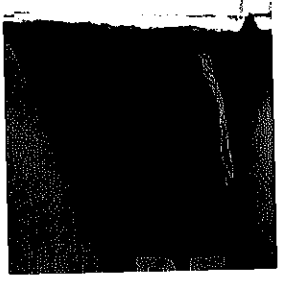
[1] I own it pleased me to find amongst them one trait of the manners of the age in London, in the last century, to shield from the sneer of English ridicule, what was some time ago too common a practice in my native city of Edinburgh!

"If what I've said can't from the town affright,
Consider other *dangers of the night;*
When brickbats are from upper stories thrown,
And *emptied chamberpots come pouring down*
From garret windows."

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Consider other *dangers of the night;*
When brickbats are from upper stories thrown,
And *emptied chamberpots come pouring down*
From garret windows."

blunder!

"Tho' much concern'd to *leave*
friend,
I must, however, *his* design com
Of fixing in the country——."

It is plain he was not going to leave h
friend was going to leave *him*. A y
once corrected this with good critical s

"Tho' much concern'd to *lose* my dea

There is one passage in the original,
fused by Oldham than by Johnson:

"*Nil habet infelix paupertas durius in*
Quàm quod ridiculos homines facit."

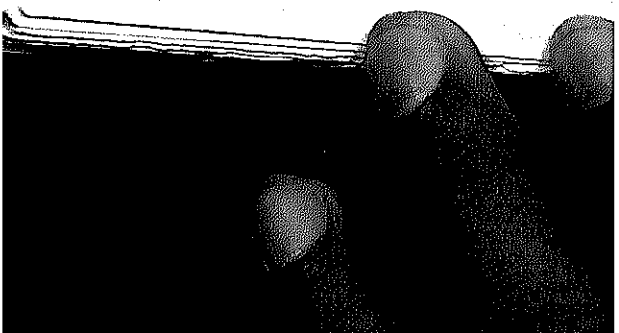
which is an exquisite remark on the gal
ness and contempt annexed to poverty:
imitation is,

"Of all the griefs that harass the distre
Sure the most bitter is a scornful jest.

Oldham's, though less elegant, is more jus

"Nothing in poverty so ill is borne,
As its exposing men to grinning scorn

Where, or in what manner this poem w
posed, I am sorry that I neglected to ascert
precision, from Johnson's own authority.



in the month of May in that year, it is evident that much time was not employed in preparing it for the press. The history of its publication I am enabled to give in a very satisfactory manner; and judging from myself, and many of my friends, I trust that it will not be uninteresting to my readers.

We may be certain, though it is not expressly named in the following letters to Mr. Cave, in 1738, that they all relate to it:

"To Mr. Cave.

"Castle-street, Wednesday Morning.

"Sir, [*No date.* 1738.]

"When I took the liberty of writing to you a few days ago, I did not expect a repetition of the same pleasure so soon; for a pleasure I shall always think it, to converse in any manner with an ingenious and candid man; but having the inclosed poem in my hands to dispose of for the benefit of the authour, (of whose abilities I shall say nothing, since I send you his performance,) I believed I could not procure more advantageous terms from any person than from you, who have so much distinguished yourself by your generous encouragement of poetry; and whose judgement of that art nothing but your commendation of my trifle[1] can give me any occasion to call in question. I do not doubt but you will look over this poem with another eye, and reward it in a different manner

[1] His Ode "Ad Urbanum," probably.—Nichols.

what the authour may hope for on account of his abilities, he has likewise another claim to your regard, as he lies at present under very disadvantageous circumstances of fortune. I beg, therefore, that you will favour me with a letter to-morrow, that I may know what you can afford to allow him, that he may either part with it to you, or find out, (which I do not expect,) some other way more to his satisfaction.

"I have only to add, that as I am sensible I have transcribed it very coarsely, which, after having altered it, I was obliged to do, I will, if you please to transmit the sheets from the press, correct it for you; and take the trouble of altering any stroke of satire which you may dislike.

"By exerting on this occasion your usual generosity, you will not only encourage learning, and relieve distress, but (though it be in comparison of the other motives of very small account) oblige in a very sensible manner, Sir,

"Your very humble Servant,

"Sam. Johnson."

"To Mr. Cave.

"Sir, "Monday, No. 6, Castle-street.

"I am to return you thanks for the present you were so kind as to send by me, and to intreat that you will be pleased to inform me by the penny-post, whether you resolve to print the poem. If you please to send it me by the post, with a note to

title-page. As to the printing, if it can be set immediately about, I will be so much the authour's friend, as not to content myself with mere solicitations in his favour. I propose, if my calculation be near the truth, to engage for the reimbursement of all that you shall lose by an impression of 500; provided, as you very generously propose, that the profit, if any, be set aside for the authour's use, excepting the present you made, which, if he be a gainer, it is fit he should repay. I beg that you will let one of your servants write an exact account of the expence of such an impression, and send it with the poem, that I may know what I engage for. I am very sensible, from your generosity on this occasion, of your regard to learning, even in its unhappiest state; and cannot but think such a temper deserving of the gratitude of those who suffer so often from a contrary disposition. I am, Sir, Your most humble Servant,

"SAM. JOHNSON."

don"

"To MR. CAVE.

"SIR, [*No date.*]

"I WAITED on you to take the copy to Dodsley's: as I remember the number of lines which it contains, it will be no longer than EUGENIO,[1] with the quotations, which must be subjoined at the bottom of the page; part of the beauty of the performance (if any beauty be allowed it) consisting in

[1] A poem, published in 1737, of which see an account in vol. iii. under April 30, 1773.

pence will be no more, I shall contentedly insure it, as I mentioned in my last. If it be not therefore gone to Dodsley's, I beg it may be sent me by the penny-post, that I may have it in the evening. I have composed a Greek Epigram to Eliza,[1] and think she ought to be celebrated in as many different languages as Lewis le Grand. Pray send me word when you will begin upon the poem, for it is a long way to walk. I would leave my Epigram, but have not day-light to transcribe it. I am, Sir,

"Your's, &c.

"SAM. JOHNSON."

"TO MR. CAVE.

"SIR, [*No date.*]

"I AM extremely obliged by your kind letter, and will not fail to attend you to-morrow with IRENE, who looks upon you as one of her best friends.

"I was to-day with Mr. Dodsley, who declares very warmly in favour of the paper you sent him, which he desires to have a share in, it being, as he says, *a creditable thing to be concerned in.* I knew not what answer to make till I had consulted you, nor what to demand on the authour's part, but am very willing that, if you please, he should have a

[1] [The learned Mrs. Ellzabeth Carter. This lady, of whom frequent mention will be found in these Memoirs, was daughter of Nicholas Carter, D.D. She died in Clarges-street, Feb. 19, 1806, in her eighty-ninth year. —M.]

word to-morrow what I shall say to him, I will settle matters, and bring the poem with me for the press, which, as the town empties, we cannot be too quick with. I am, Sir,

"Your's, &c.

"Sam. Johnson."

To us who have long known the manly force, bold spirit, and masterly versification of this poem, it is a matter of curiosity to observe the diffidence with which its authour brought it forward into publick notice, while he is so cautious as not to avow it to be his own production; and with what humility he offers to allow the printer to "alter any stroke of satire which he might dislike." That any such alteration was made, we do not know. If we did, we could not but feel an indignant regret; but how painful is it to see that a writer of such vigorous powers of mind was actually in such distress, that the small profit which so short a poem, however excellent, could yield, was courted as a "relief."

It has been generally said, I know not with what truth, that Johnson offered his "London" to several booksellers, none of whom would purchase it. To this circumstance Mr. Derrick alludes in the following lines of his "Fortune, a Rhapsody:"

"Will no kind patron Johnson own?
Shall Johnson friendless range the town?
And every publisher refuse
The offspring of his happy Muse?"

able to have a share in it. The fact is, that, at a future conference, he bargained for the whole property of it, for which he gave Johnson ten guineas; who told me, "I might perhaps have accepted of less; but that Paul Whitehead had a little before got ten guineas for a poem; and I would not take less than Paul Whitehead."

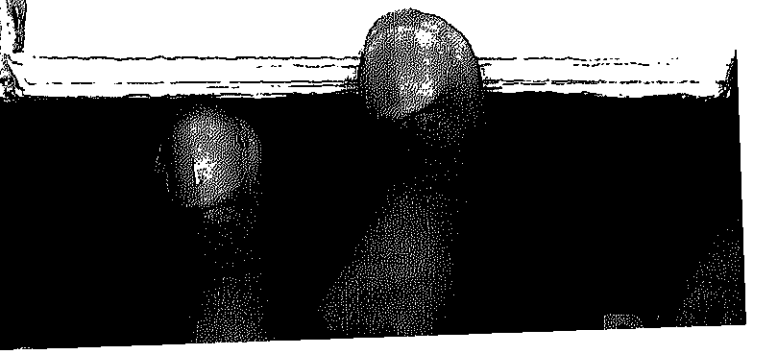
I may here observe, that Johnson appeared to me to undervalue Paul Whitehead upon every occasion when he was mentioned, and, in my opinion, did not do him justice; but when it is considered that Paul Whitehead was a member of a riotous and profane club, we may account for Johnson's having a prejudice against him. Paul Whitehead was, indeed, unfortunate in being not only slighted by Johnson, but violently attacked by Churchill, who utters the following imprecation:

> "May I (can worse disgrace on manhood fall?)
> Be born a Whitehead, and baptized a Paul!"

yet I shall never be persuaded to think meanly of the authour of so brilliant and pointed a satire as "MANNERS."

Johnson's "London" was published in May, 1738;[1] and it is remarkable, that it came out on the

[1] Sir John Hawkins, p. 86, tells us, "The event is *antedated*, in the poem of 'London;' but in every particular, except the difference of a year, what is there said of the departure of Thales, must be understood of Savage, and looked upon as *true history*." This conjecture is, I



s poetical monitors. The Reverend Dr. Douglas, ow Bishop of Salisbury, to whom I am indebted for ome obliging communications, was then a student t Oxford, and remembers well the effect which "London" produced. Every body was delighted ith it; and there being no name to it, the first buz f the literary circles was, "here is an unknown oet, greater even than Pope." And it is recorded n the Gentleman's Magazine of that year,[1] that "got to the second edition in the course of a veek."

One of the warmest patrons of this poem on its rst appearance was General Oglethorpe, whose "strong benevolence of soul" was unabated during he course of a very long life; though it is painful to hink, that he had but too much reason to become old and callous, and discontented with the world, om the neglect which he experienced of his pub-

elieve, entirely groundless. I have been assured that ohnson said he was not so much as acquainted with avage, when he wrote his "London." If the departure ientioned in it was the departure of Savage, the event vas not *antedated* but *foreseen*; for "London" was pub-ished in May, 1738, and Savage did not set out for Vales till July, 1739. However well Johnson could efend the credibility of *second sight*, he did not pretend hat he himself was possessed of that faculty.

[The assertion that Johnson was not even acquainted vith Savage, when he published his "London," may be oubtful. Johnson took leave of Savage when he went o Wales in 1739, and must have been acquainted with im before that period. See his Life of Savage.—A. Chalmers.]

[1] Page 269.

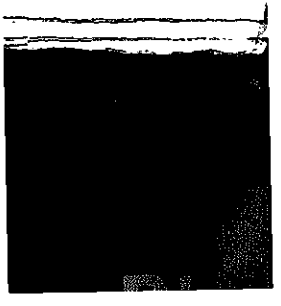
distinction. This extraordinary person was as remarkable for his learning and taste, as for his other eminent qualities; and no man was more prompt, active, and generous, in encouraging merit. I have heard Johnson gratefully acknowledge, in his presence, the kind and effectual support which he gave to his "London," though unacquainted with its authour.

Pope, who then filled the poetical throne without a rival, it may reasonably be presumed, must have been particularly struck by the sudden appearance of such a poet; and, to his credit, let it be remembered, that his feelings and conduct on the occasion were candid and liberal. He requested Mr. Richardson, son of the painter, to endeavour to find out who this new authour was. Mr. Richardson, after some inquiry, having informed him that he had discovered only that his name was Johnson, and that he was some obscure man, Pope said, "He will soon be *deterré*."[1] We shall presently see, from a note written by Pope,[2] that he was himself afterwards more successful in his inquiries than his friend.

That in this justly-celebrated poem may be found a few rhymes which the critical precision of English prosody at this day would disallow, cannot be denied; but with this small imperfection, which in the general blaze of its excellence is not perceived, till the mind has subsided into cool attention, it is, undoubtedly, one of the noblest productions in our

[1] Sir Joshua Reynolds, from the information of the younger Richardson.

[2] [See p. 125.—M.]



and the Ministry, which some years after ended in the downfall of Sir Robert Walpole; and as it has been said, that Tories are Whigs when out of place, and Whigs Tories when in place; so, as a Whig Administration ruled with what force it could, a Tory Opposition had all the animation and all the eloquence of resistance to power, aided by the common topicks of patriotism, liberty, and independence! Accordingly, we find in Johnson's "London" the most spirited invectives against tyranny and oppression, the warmest predilection for his own country, and the purest love of virtue; interspersed with traits of his own particular character and situation, not omitting his prejudices as a "true-born Englishman,"[1] not only against foreign countries, but against Ireland and Scotland. On some of these topicks I shall quote a few passages:

"London"

"The cheated nation's happy fav'rites see;
Mark whom the great caress, who frown on me."

"Has heaven reserv'd, in pity to the poor,
No pathless waste, or undiscover'd shore?
No secret island in the boundless main?
No peaceful desart yet unclaim'd by Spain?
Quick let us rise, the happy seats explore,
And bear Oppression's insolence no more."

[1] It is, however, remarkable, that he uses the epithet, which undoubtedly, since the union between England and Scotland, ought to denominate the natives of both parts of our island,

"Was early taught a Briton's rights to prize."

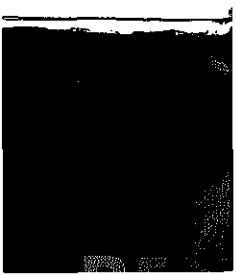
Can *surly Pride* hope to find a friend?

"This mournful truth is every where confess'd,
SLOW RISES WORTH, BY POVERTY DEPRESS'D!"

We may easily conceive with what feeling a great mind like his, cramped and galled by narrow circumstances, uttered this last line, which he marked by capitals. The whole of the poem is eminently excellent, and there are in it such proofs of a knowledge of the world, and of a mature acquaintance with life, as cannot be contemplated without wonder, when we consider that he was then only in his twenty-ninth year, and had yet been so little in the "busy haunts of men."

Yet, while we admire the poetical excellence of this poem, candour obliges us to allow, that the flame of patriotism and zeal for popular resistance with which it is fraught, had no just cause. There was, in truth, *no* "oppression;" the "nation" was *not* "cheated." Sir Robert Walpole was a wise and a benevolent minister, who thought that the happiness and prosperity of a commercial country like ours, would be best promoted by peace, which he accordingly maintained with credit, during a very long period. Johnson himself afterwards honestly acknowledged the merit of Walpole, whom he called "a fixed star;" while he characterised his opponent, Pitt, as "a meteor." But Johnson's juvenile poem was naturally impregnated with the fire of opposition, and upon every account was universally admired.

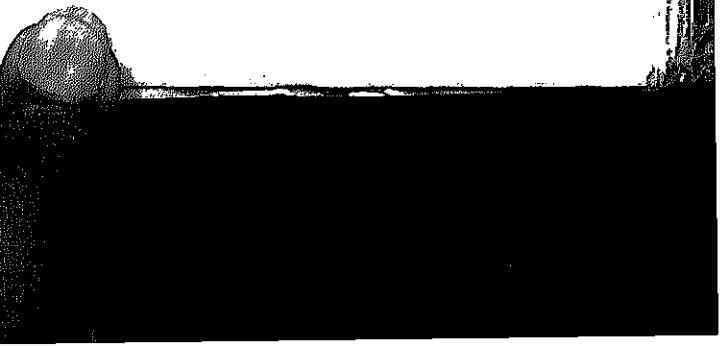
Though thus elevated into fame, and conscious



ambition, which one might have supposed would have urged him to endeavour at rising in life. But such was his inflexible dignity of character, that he could not stoop to court the great; without which, hardly any man has made his way to a high station. He could not expect to produce many such works as his "LONDON," and he felt the hardships of writing for bread; he was therefore, willing to resume the office of a schoolmaster, so as to have a sure, though moderate income for his life; and an offer being made to him of the mastership of a school,[1] provided he could obtain the degree of

ship

[1] In a billet written by Mr. Pope in the following year, this school is said to have been in *Shropshire;* but as it appears from a letter from Earl Gower, that the trustees of it were "some worthy gentlemen in Johnson's neighbourhood," I in my first edition suggested that Pope must have, by mistake, written Shropshire, instead of Staffordshire. But I have since been obliged to Mr Spearing, attorney-at-law, for the following information: —"William Adams, formerly citizen and haberdasher of London, founded a school at Newport, in the county of Salop, by deed dated 27th November, 1656, by which he granted the 'yearly sum of *sixty pounds* to such able and learned schoolmaster, from time to time, being of godly life and conversation, who should have been educated at one of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, and had taken the degree of *Master of Arts*, and was well read in the Greek and Latin tongues, as should be nominated from time to time by the said William Adams, during his life, and after the decease of the said William Adams by the governours (namely, the Master and Wardens of the Haberdashers' Company of the City of London) and their successors.' The manour and lands out of which the revenues for the maintenance of the school were to issue are situate *at Knighton and Adbaston, in the county of*



granted him as a favour from the University of Oxford. But though he had made such a figure in the literary world, it was then thought too great a favour to be asked.

Stafford." From the foregoing account of this foundation, particularly the circumstances of the salary being sixty pounds, and the degree of Master of Arts being a requisite qualification in the teacher, it seemed probable that this was the school in contemplation; and that Lord Gower erroneously supposed that the gentlemen who possessed the lands, out of which the revenues issued, were trustees of the charity.

Such was probable conjecture. But in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for May, 1793, there is a letter from Mr. Henn, one of the masters of the school of Appleby, in Leicestershire, in which he writes as follows:

"I compared time and circumstance together, in order to discover whether the school in question might not be this of Appleby. Some of the trustees at that period were 'worthy gentlemen of the neighbourhood of Lichfield.' Appleby itself is not far from the neighbourhood of Lichfield: the salary, the degree requisite, together with the *time of election*, all agreeing with the statutes of Appleby. The election, as said in the letter, 'could not be delayed longer than the 11th of next month,' which was the 11th of September, just three months after the annual audit-day of Appleby school, which is always on the 11th of June; and the statutes enjoin, *ne ullius præceptorum electio diutius tribus mensibus moraretur*, &c.

"These I thought to be convincing proofs that my conjecture was not ill-founded, and that, in a future edition of that book, the circumstance might be recorded as fact.

"But what banishes every shadow of doubt is the *Minute-book* of the school, which declares the head-mastership to be *at that time* VACANT."

I cannot omit returning thanks to this learned gentleman for the very handsome manner in which he has in that letter been so good as to speak of this work.



who endeavoured to procure for him a degree from Dublin, by the following letter to a friend of Dean Swift:

"SIR,

"MR. SAMUEL JOHNSON (authour of LONDON, a satire, and some other poetical pieces) is a native of this country, and much respected by some worthy gentlemen in his neighbourhood, who are trustees of a charity-school now vacant; the certain salary is sixty pounds a year, of which they are desirous to make him master; but, unfortunately, he is not capable of receiving their bounty, which *would make him happy for life*, by not being *a Master of Arts*; which, by the statutes of this school, the master of it must be.

"Now these gentlemen do me the honour to think that I have interest enough in you, to prevail upon you to write to Dean Swift, to persuade the University of Dublin to send a diploma to me, constituting this poor man Master of Arts in their University. They highly extol the man's learning and probity; and will not be persuaded, that the University will make any difficulty of conferring such a favour upon a stranger, if he is recommended by the Dean. They say, he is not afraid of the strictest examination, though he is of so long a journey; and will venture it, if the Dean thinks it necessary; choosing rather to die upon the road, *than be starved to death in translating for booksellers*; which has been his only subsistence for some time past.

"I fear there is more difficulty in this affair, than

THE HUNT LIBRARY
CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

practising law

11th of next month. If you see this matt
same light that it appears to me, I hope
burn this, and pardon me for giving you
trouble about an impracticable thing; but
think there is a probability of obtaining th
asked, I am sure your humanity, and prop
relieve merit in distress, will incline you
the poor man, without my adding any mor
trouble I have already given you, than assu
that I am, with great truth, Sir,

"Your faithful serv
"C

"Trentham, Aug. 1, 1739."

It was, perhaps no small disappointment t
son that this respectable application had
desired effect; yet how much reason has the
both for himself and his country, to rejoic
did not succeed, as he might probably have
in obscurity those hours in which he aft
produced his incomparable works.

About this time he made one other e
emancipate himself from the drudgery of
ship. He applied to Dr. Adams, to cons
Smalbroke of the Commons, whether a
might be permitted to practise as an advocat
without a doctor's degree in Civil Law.
(said he) a total stranger to these studi
whatever is a profession, and maintains n
must be within the reach of common abilit
some degree of industry." Dr. Adams wa
pleased with Johnson's design to employ his



lawyer

n better qualified to make a distin-
as a lawyer; for, he would have
profession a rich store of various
uncommon acuteness, and a com-
ge, in which few could have equalled,
surpassed him. He who could dis-
and wit in defence of the decision
of Commons upon Mr. Wilkes's
ddlesex, and of the unconstitutional
fellow-subjects in America, must
werful advocate in any cause. But
want of a degree was an insurmount-

fore, under the necessity of persever-
ie, into which he had been forced;
it his proposal from Greenwich to
translation of Father Paul Sarpi's
cepted.[1]

y Miscellany, October 21, 1738, there
owing advertisement: "Just published,
nting the History of the Council of
from the Italian of Father Paul Sarpi;
s Life, and Notes theological, historical,
the French edition of Dr. Le Courayer.
led, Observations on the History, and
ations from various Authours, both
cript. By S. Johnson. 1. The work
o hundred sheets, and be two volumes
on good paper and letter. 2. The
each volume, to be paid, half a guinea
the first volume, and the rest at the
ond volume in sheets. 3. Two-pence
ery sheet less than two hundred. It
large paper, in three volumes, at the
neas; one to be paid at the time of

Paul's History

but the design was dropt; for it happened, oddly enough, that another person of the name of Samuel *Johnson, Librarian of St. Martin's in the Fields*, and Curate of that parish, engaged in the same undertaking, and was patronised by the Clergy, particularly by Dr. Pearce, afterwards Bishop of Rochester. Several light skirmishes passed between the rival translators, in the news-papers of the day; and the consequence was that they destroyed each other, *for neither of them went on with the work.* It is much to be regretted, that the able performance of that celebrated genius FRA PAOLO, lost the advantage of being incorporated into British literature by the masterly hand of Johnson.

I have in my possession, by the favour of Mr. John Nichols, a paper in Johnson's hand-writing, entitled "Account between Mr. *Edward Cave* and Sam. Johnson, in relation to a version of Father Paul, &c. begun August the 2d, 1738;" by which it appears, that from that day to the 21st of April, 1739, Johnson received for this work 49*l.* 7*s.* in sums of one, two, three, and sometimes four guineas at a time, most frequently two. And it is curious to observe the minute and scrupulous accuracy with which Johnson had pasted upon it a slip of paper, which he has entitled "Small account," and which contains one article, "Sept. 9th, Mr. Cave laid

subscribing, another at the delivery of the first, and the rest at the delivery of the other volumes. The work is now in the press, and will be diligently prosecuted. *Subscriptions are taken in by Mr. Dodsley in Pall-Mall,* Mr. Rivington in St. Paul's Church-yard, by E. Cave at St. John's Gate, and the Translator, at No. 6, in Castle-street, by Cavendish-square."



Johnson's handwriting, partly in that of another person; and there follows a leaf or two on which are written a number of characters which have the appearance of a short hand, which, perhaps, Johnson was then trying to learn.

"To Mr. Cave.

"sir, Wednesday.

"I did not care to detain your servant while I wrote an answer to your letter, in which you seem to insinuate that I had promised more than I am ready to perform. If I have raised your expectations by any thing that may have escaped my memory, I am sorry; and if you remind me of it, shall thank you for the favour. If I made fewer alterations than usual in the Debates, it was only because there appeared, and still appears to be, less need of alteration. The verses to Lady Firebrace[1] may be had when you please, for you know that such a subject neither deserves much thought, nor requires it.

"The Chinese Stories[2] may be had folded down when you please to send, in which I do not recollect that you desired any alterations to be made.

"An answer to another query I am very willing

[1] They afterwards appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine with this title—"Verses to Lady Firebrace, at Bury Assizes."

[2] Du Halde's Description of China was then publishing by Mr. Cave in weekly numbers, whence Johnson was to select pieces for the embellishment of the Magazine.—Nichols.

night, if there had been time; for I think it the most proper way of inviting such a correspondence as may be an advantage to the paper, not a load upon it.

"As to the Prize Verses, a backwardness to determine their degrees of merit is not peculiar to me. You may, if you please, still have what I can say; but I shall engage with little spirit in an affair, which I shall *hardly* end to my own satisfaction, and *certainly* not to the satisfaction of the parties concerned.[1]

"As to Father Paul, I have not yet been just to my proposal, but have met with impediments, which, I hope, are now at an end; and if you find the progress hereafter not such as you have a right to expect, you can easily stimulate a negligent translator.

"*If any or all of these have contributed to your discontent, I will endeavour to remove it; and desire you to propose the question to which you wish for an answer.*

"I am, Sir,
"Your humble servant,
"Sam. Johnson."

"To Mr. Cave.

"Sir, [*No date.*]

"I am pretty much of your opinion, that the Commentary cannot be prosecuted with any appearance of success; for as the names of the authours

[1] The premium of forty pounds proposed for the best poem on the Divine Attributes is here alluded to.—Nichols.

soon satisfied with it. And I think the Examen should be pushed forward with the utmost expedition. Thus, 'This day, &c. An Examen of Mr. Pope's Essay, &c. containing a succinct Account of the Philosophy of Mr. Leibnitz on the System of the Fatalists, with a Confutation of their Opinions, and an Illustration of the Doctrine of Free-will;' [with what else you think proper.]

"It will, above all, be necessary to take notice, that it is a thing distinct from the Commentary.

"I was so far from imagining they stood still,[1] that I conceived them to have a good deal beforehand, and therefore was less anxious in providing them more. But if ever they stand still on my account, it must doubtless be charged to me; and whatever else shall be reasonable, I shall not oppose; but beg a suspense of judgement till morning, when I must entreat you to send me a dozen proposals, and you shall then have copy to spare.

"I am, Sir,

"Your's, *impransus*,

"SAM. JOHNSON."

"Pray muster up the Proposals if you can, or let the boy recall them from the booksellers."

But although he corresponded with Mr. Cave concerning a translation of Crousaz's Examen of Pope's Essay on Man, and gave advice as one anxious for

[1] The Compositors in Mr. Cave's printing-office, who appear by this letter to have then waited for copy. —NICHOLS.

ascribed to him; and I have found this point ascertained, beyond all doubt, by the following article in Dr. Birch's Manuscripts in the British Museum:

"Elisæ Carteræ, S. P. D. Thomas Birch.

"*Versionem tuam Examinis Crousaziani jam perlegi. Summam styli et elegantiam, et in re difficillimâ proprietatem, admiratus.*

"*Dabam Novemb.* 27° 1738."[1]

Indeed Mrs. Carter has lately acknowledged to Mr. Seward, that she was the translator of the "Examen."

It is remarkable, that Johnson's last quoted letter to Mr. Cave concludes with a fair confession that he had not a dinner; and it is no less remarkable, that though in this state of want himself, his benevolent heart was not insensible to the necessities of an humble labourer in literature, as appears from the very next letter:

"To Mr. Cave.

"dear sir, [*No date.*]

"You may remember I have formerly talked with you about a Military Dictionary. The eldest Mr. Macbean, who was with Mr. Chambers, has very good materials for such a work, which I have seen, and will do it at a very low rate.[2] I think the

[1] Birch MSS. Brit. Mus. 4323.

[2] This book was published.

with good explanations, in one vol. 12mo, which he
solatione
s willing to do for twelve shillings a sheet, to be
nade up a guinea at the second impression. If you
hink on it, I will wait on you with him.

" I am, Sir,

" *Your humble servant,*

" Sam. Johnson."

" Pray lend me Topsel on Animals."

I must not omit to mention, that this Mr. Mac-
ean was a native of Scotland.

In the Gentleman's Magazine of this year, John-
on gave a Life of Father Paul; * and he wrote the
Preface to the Volume,† which, though prefixed to
: when bound, is always published with the Appen-
ix, and is therefore the last composition belonging
o it. The ability and nice adaptation with which
e *could draw up a prefatory address, was one of*
is peculiar excellencies.

It appears too, that he paid a friendly attention
o Mrs. Elizabeth Carter; for in a letter from
Mr. Cave to Dr. Birch, November 28, this year,
find " Mr. Johnson advises Miss C. to undertake
translation of *Boethius de Cons.* because there is
rose and verse, and to put her name to it when
ublished." This advice was not followed; prob-
bly from an apprehension that the work was not
ufficiently popular for an extensive sale. How well
ohnson himself could have executed a translation
f this philosophical poet, we may judge from the
ollowing *specimen which he has given in the*
Rambler: (*Motto to No.* 7.)

Disjice terrenæ nebulas et pondera molis,
Atque tuo splendore mica! Tu namque serenum,
Tu requies tranquilla piis. Te cernere finis,
Principium, vector, dux, semita, terminus, idem."

"O THOU whose power o'er moving worlds presides,
Whose voice created, and whose wisdom guides,
On darkling man in pure effulgence shine,
And cheer the clouded mind with light divine.
'Tis thine alone to calm the pious breast,
With silent confidence and holy rest;
From thee, great God! we spring, to thee we tend,
Path, motive, guide, original, and end!"

In 1739, beside the assistance which he gave to the Parliamentary Debates, his writings in the Gentleman's Magazine were, "The Life of Boerhaave,"* in which it is to be observed, that he discovers that love of chymistry which never forsook him; "An Appeal to the Publick in behalf of the Editor;"† "An Address to the Reader;"† "An Epigram both in Greek and Latin to Eliza,"* and also English verses to her;* and, "A Greek Epigram to Dr. Birch."* It has been erroneously supposed, that an Essay published in that Magazine this year, entitled "The Apotheosis of Milton," was written by Johnson; and on that supposition it has been improperly inserted in the edition of his works by the Booksellers, after his decease. Were there no positive testimony as to this point, the style of the performance, and the name of Shakspeare not

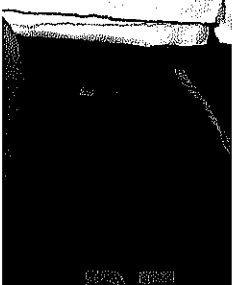
o be the production of Johnson. But there is here o occasion to resort to internal evidence; for my ord Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. Douglas) has asured me, that it was written by Guthrie. His eparate publications were, "A Complete Vindicaon of the Licensers of the Stage, from the malious and scandalous Aspersions of Mr. Brooke, uthour of Gustavus Vasa," * being an ironical ttack upon them for their Suppression of that ragedy; and, "Marmor Norfolciense; or an ssay on an ancient prophetical Inscription, in onkish Rhyme, lately discovered near Lynne in orfolk, by Probus Britannicus." * In this perormance, he, in a feigned inscription, supposed to ave been found in Norfolk, the county of Sir Robert Walpole, then the obnoxious prime minister of this ountry, inveighs against the Brunswick succession, nd the measures of government consequent upon it.[1] o this supposed prophecy he added a Commenary, making each expression apply to the times, with warm Anti-Hanoverian zeal.

This anonymous pamphlet, I believe, did not make so much noise as was expected, and, therefore, had not a very extensive circulation. Sir John Hawkins relates, that "warrants were issued, and messengers employed to apprehend the authour; who, though he had forborne to subscribe his name to the pamphlet, the vigilance of those in pursuit of him had discovered;" and we are informed, that

1 The Inscription and the Translation of it are preserved in the London Magazine for the year 1739, p. 244.

malice without foundation; for Mr. Steele, one of the Secretaries of the Treasury, who amidst a variety of important business, politely obliged me with his attention to my enquiry, informed me, that "he directed every possible search to be made in the records of the Treasury and Secretary of State's Office, but could find no trace whatever of any warrant having been issued to apprehend the authour of this pamphlet."

"Marmor Norfolciense" became exceedingly scarce, so that I for many years endeavoured in vain to procure a copy of it. At last I was indebted to the malice of one of Johnson's numerous petty adversaries, who, in 1775, published a new edition of it, "with Notes and a Dedication to SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D. by TRIMUNUS;" in which some puny scribbler invidiously attempted to found upon it a charge of inconsistency against its authour, because he had accepted of a pension from his present Majesty, and had written in support of the measures of government. As a mortification to such impotent malice, of which there are so many instances towards men of eminence, I am happy to relate, that this *telum imbelle* did not reach its exalted object, till about a year after it thus appeared, when I mentioned it to him, supposing that he knew of the re-publication. To my surprise, he had not yet heard of it. He requested me to go directly and get it for him, which I did. He looked at it and laughed, and seemed to be much diverted with the feeble efforts of his unknown adversary, who, I hope, is alive to read this



en for you, you rogue, I should probably never ve seen it."

As Mr. Pope's note concerning Johnson, alluded in a former page, refers both to his "London," d his "Marmor Norfolciense," I have deferred serting it till now. I am indebted for it to Dr. ercy, the Bishop of Dromore, who permitted me copy it from the original in his possession. It as *presented to his Lordship* by Sir Joshua eynolds, to whom it was given by the son of r. Richardson the painter, the person to whom is addressed. I have transcribed it with minute actness, that the peculiar mode of writing, and perfect spelling of that celebrated poet, may be hibited to the curious in literature. It justifies wift's epithet of "paper-sparing Pope," for it is *ritten on a slip no larger than a common message*rd, and was sent to Mr. Richardson, along with e imitation of Juvenal.

"This is imitated by one Johnson who put in a Publick-school in Shropshire,[1] but was disointed. He has an infirmity of the convulsive nd, that attacks him sometimes, so as to make im a sad Spectacle. Mr. P. from the Merit *This Work which was all the knowledge he* d of Him endeavour'd to serve Him without his n application; & wrote to my L^d. gore, but did not succeed. Mr. Johnson published after-^s. another Poem in Latin with Notes the whole ry Humerous call'd the Norfolk Prophecy.

"P."

[1] See note, p. 111.

gestures which it contained, but, from delicacy, avoided shewing him the paper itself. When Sir Joshua observed to Johnson that he seemed very desirous to see Pope's note, he answered, "Who would not be proud to have such a man as Pope so solicitous in enquiring about him?"

The infirmity to which Mr. Pope alludes, appeared to me also, as I have elsewhere[1] observed, to be of the convulsive kind, and of the nature of that distemper called St. Vitus's dance; and in this opinion I am confirmed by the description which Sydenham gives of that disease. "This disorder is a kind of convulsion. It manifests itself by halting or unsteadiness of one of the legs, which the patient draws after him like an ideot. If the hand of the same side be applied to the breast, or any other part of the body, he cannot keep it a moment in the same posture, but it will be drawn into a different one by a convulsion, notwithstanding all his efforts to the contrary." Sir Joshua Reynolds, however, was of a different opinion, and favoured me with the following paper.

"Those motions or tricks of Dr. Johnson are improperly called convulsions. He could sit motionless, when he was told so to do, as well as any other man. My opinion is, that it proceeded from a habit[2] which he had indulged himself in, of accom-

[1] Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides (Introduction).

[2] [Sir Joshua Reynolds's notion on this subject is confirmed by what Johnson himself said to a young lady, the niece of his friend Christopher Smart. See a note by Mr. Boswell on some particulars communicated by Reynolds, in vol. v. under March 30, 1783.—M.]



ɔate some part of his past con-
: was not engaged in conversa-
ɾere sure to rush into his mind;
any company, any employment
ed to being alone. The great
(he said) was to escape from
tion he considered as the disease
nothing cured but company.
' his absence of mind and parti-
ıaracteristick of the man, may
When he and I took a journey
West, we visited the late Mr.
ıire; the conversation turning
h Johnson could not well see,
ner of the room, stretching out
as he could reach before him,
left leg, and stretching his right
he old gentleman observing him,
nd in a very courteous manner
h it was not a new house, the
:tly safe. The Doctor started
ike a person waked out of his
: a word."
ɔn this subject, my readers may
ɾith another anecdote, communi-
e same friend, from the relation

ɔ be a pretty frequent visitor at
Richardson, authour of Clarissa,
of extensive reputation. Mr.
ıe day to see Richardson, soon
n of Dr. Cameron, for having

have been some very unfavourable circumstances lately discovered in this particular case, which had induced the King to approve of an execution for rebellion so long after the time when it was committed, as this had the appearance of putting a man to death in cold blood,[1] and was very unlike his Majesty's usual clemency. While he was talking, he perceived a person standing at a window in the room, shaking his head, and rolling himself about in a strange ridiculous manner. He concluded that he was an ideot, whom his relations had put under the care of Mr. Richardson, as a very good man. To his great surprize, however, this figure stalked forwards to where he and Mr. Richardson were sitting, and all at once took up the argument, and burst out into an invective against George the

[1] Impartial posterity may, perhaps, be as little inclined as Dr. Johnson was, to justify the uncommon rigour exercised in the case of Dr. Archibald Cameron. He was an amiable and truly honest man; and his offence was owing to a generous, though mistaken principle of duty. Being obliged, after 1746, to give up his profession as a physician, and to go into foreign parts, he was honoured with the rank of Colonel, both in the French and Spanish service. He was a son of the ancient and respectable family of Cameron, of Lochiel; and his brother, who was the Chief of that brave clan, distinguished himself by moderation and humanity, while the Highland army marched victorious through Scotland. It is remarkable of this Chief, that though he had earnestly remonstrated against the attempt as hopeless, he was of too heroick a spirit not to venture his life and fortune in the cause, when personally asked by him whom he thought his Prince.

particularly, that when an officer of high rank had been acquitted by a Court Martial, George the Second had with his own hand struck his name off the list. In short, he displayed such a power of eloquence, that Hogarth looked at him with astonishment, and actually imagined that this ideot had been at the moment inspired. Neither Hogarth nor Johnson were made known to each other at this interview.

In 1740 he wrote for the Gentleman's Magazine the "Preface," † "the Life of Admiral Blake," * and the first parts of those of "Sir Francis Drake," * and "Philip Barretier," * [1] both which he finished the following year. He also wrote an "Essay on Epitaphs," * and an "Epitaph on Phillips, a Musician," * which was afterwards published with some other pieces of his, in Mrs. Williams's Miscellanies. This Epitaph is so exquisitely beautiful, that I remember even Lord Kames, strangely prejudiced as he was against Dr. Johnson, was compelled to allow it very high praise. It has been ascribed to Mr. Garrick, from its appearing at first with the signature G; but I have heard Mr. Garrick declare, that it was written by Dr. Johnson, and give the following account of the manner in which it was composed. Johnson and he were sitting together; when, amongst other things, Garrick repeated an Epitaph upon this Phillips by a Dr. Wilkes, in these words:

[1] [To which in 1742 he made very large additions, which have never yet been incorporated in any edition of Barretier's Life.—A. Chalmers.]

Could jarring discord, like Amphion, [illegible]
To beauteous order and harmonious love;
Rest here in peace, till angels bid thee rise,
And meet thy blessed Saviour in the skies.

Johnson shook his head at these common-place funereal lines, and said to Garrick, "I think, Davy, I can make a better." Then stirring about his tea for a little while, in a state of meditation, he almost extempore produced the following verses:

"Phillips, whose touch harmonious could remove
The pangs of guilty power or hapless love;
Rest here, distress'd by poverty no more,
Here find that calm thou gav'st so oft before;
Sleep, undisturb'd, within this peaceful shrine,
Till angels wake thee with a note like thine!"[1]

At the same time that Mr. Garrick favoured me with this anecdote, he repeated a very pointed

[1] [The epitaph of Phillips is in the porch of Wolverhampton church. The prose part of it is curious:

"Near this place lies
Charles Claudius Phillips,
Whose absolute contempt of riches
and inimitable performances upon the violin,
made him the admiration of all that knew him.
He was born in Wales,
made the tour of Europe,
and, after the experience of both kinds of fortune,
Died in 1732."

Mr. Garrick appears not to have recited the verses correctly, the original being as follows. One of the

of which I know not the exact date. Dr. Johnson afterwards gave it to me himself:

George II. and Cibber

"Augustus still survives in Maro's strain,
And Spenser's verse prolongs Eliza's reign;
Great George's acts let tuneful Cibber sing;
For Nature form'd the Poet for the King."

In 1741 he wrote for the Gentleman's Magazine "the Preface," † "Conclusion of his lives of Drake and Barretier," * "A free translation of the Jests of Hierocles, with an Introduction;" † and, I think, the following pieces: "Debate on the Proposal of parliament to Cromwell, to assume the Title of King, abridged, *modified*, and *digested*;" † "Translation of Abbé Guyon's Dissertation on the Amazons;" † "Translation of Fontenelle's Panegyrick on Dr. Morin." † Two notes upon this appear to me un-

various readings is remarkable, as it is the germ of Johnson's concluding line:

"Exalted soul, *thy various sounds* could please
The love-sick virgin, and the gouty ease;
Could jarring *crowds*, like *old* Amphion, move
To beauteous order and harmonious love;
Rest here in peace, till Angels bid thee rise,
And meet thy Saviour's consort in the skies."

Dr. Wilkes, the authour of these lines, was a Fellow of Trinity College, in Oxford, and rector of Pitchford, in Shropshire: he collected materials for a history of *that county, and is spoken of by Brown Willis, in his* History of Mitred Abbies, vol. ii. p. 189. But he was a native of Staffordshire; and to the antiquities of that county was his attention chiefly confined. Mr. Shaw has had the use of his papers.—Blakeway.]

Parliamentary debates

doubtedly his. He this year, and t
ing, wrote the Parliamentary Deb
me himself, that he was the sole co
for those three years only. He wa
precisely exact in his statement, whic
from hasty recollection; for it is suff
that his composition of them began
1740, and ended February 23, 174

It appears from some of Cave's
Birch, that Cave had better assis
branch of his Magazine, than has
supposed; and that he was indefatig
it made as perfect as he could.

Thus 21st July, 1735, "I trouble
inclosed, because you said you could
what is here given for Lord C——l
beg you will do so as soon as you
because the month is far advanced.

And 15th July, 1737, "As you
debates so far as to perceive the sp
printed are not exact, I beg the fa
will peruse the inclosed, and, in th
your memory will serve, correct the
sages, or add any thing that is omitt
be very glad to have something of
N——le's speech, which would be
service.

"A gentleman has Lord Bathur
add something to."

And July 3, 1744, "You will see
low, abominable stuff is put[1] upon y
learned friend's[2] character, such as

[1] I suppose in another compilation of t

reject, and endeavour to do something better t
wards doing justice to the character. But as
cannot expect to attain my desire in that respe
it would be a great satisfaction, as well as an hono
to our work, to have the favour of the genui
speech. It is a method that several have be
pleased to take, as I could show, but I think m
self under a restraint. I shall say so far, that
have had some by a third hand, which I unde
stood well enough to come from the firs
others by penny-post, and others by the speake
themselves, who have been pleased to visit S
John's gate, and show particular marks of th
being pleased." [1]

There is no reason, I believe, to doubt the ver
city of Cave. It is, however, remarkable, th
none of these letters are in the years during whi
Johnson alone furnished the Debates, and one
them is in the very year after he ceased from th
labour. Johnson told me, that as soon as he fou
that the speeches were thought genuine, he dete
mined that he would write no more of them; "
he would not be accessary to the propagation
falsehood." And such was the tenderness of
conscience, that a short time before his death
expressed his regret for his having been the autho
of fictions, which had passed for realities.

He nevertheless agreed with me in thinking, th
the debates which he had framed were to be valu
as orations upon questions of publick importan
They have accordingly been collected in volum
properly arranged, and recommended to the not
of parliamentary speakers by a preface, written

Attempts to sell "Irene"

no inferior hand.[1] I mus
although there is in those
of political information, and
I cannot agree that they ex
particular speaker, as Sir
think. But, indeed, wha
of his judgement, and taste
presumes to give, as the
celebrated orators, "the d
Pulteney, and the yelping p

This year I find that h
been for some time ready f
necessities made him desir
as he could for it, without
following letter from Mr.
the same volume of man
Museum, from which I cop
They were most obligingly
Sir William Musgrave, one
noble repository.

"I HAVE put Mr. Jo
Gray's[3] hands, in order to
inclined to buy it; but I do
not. He would dispose of
advantage may be made by
society,[4] or any gentleman,
you know, take such a ba

[1] I am assured that the editor
whose commercial works are w
[2] Hawkins's Life of Johnson,
[3] A bookseller of London.
[4] Not the Royal Society:
encouragement of learning, of

ery unfit to deal with theatrical persons. Fleet
ood was to have acted it last season, but Johnson'
iffidence or [1] prevented it."

I have already mentioned that "Irene," was no
ought into publick notice till Garrick was manage
Drury-lane theatre.

In 1742[2] he wrote for the Gentleman's Magazin
e "Preface," † the "Parliamentary Debates,"
Essay on the Account of the Conduct of th
uchess of Marlborough," * then the popular topic
conversation. This Essay is a short but masterl
rformance. We find him in No. 13 of h
ambler, censuring a profligate sentiment in th
Account;" and again insisting upon it strenuousl
conversation.[3] "An Account of the Life
eter Burman," * I believe chiefly taken from
reign publication; as, indeed, he could not him
lf know much about Burman; "Additions to h
ife of Barretier;" * "The Life of Sydenham,"
terwards prefixed to Dr. Swan's edition of h
orks; "Proposals for printing Bibliotheca Ha
ana, or a Catalogue of the Library of the Earl
xford." * His account of that celebrated colle

inting expensive works. It existed from about 17
1746, when, having incurred a considerable debt,
is dissolved.

[1] There is no erasure here, but a mere blank: to f
which may be an exercise for ingenious conjecture.

[2] [From one of his letters to a friend, written in Ju
42, it should seem that he then purposed to write
y on the subject of Charles the Twelfth, of Swede
d to have it ready for the ensuing winter. The pa
e alluded to, however, is somewhat ambiguous; a
work which he then had in contemplation may ha
n a history of that monarch.—M.]

Osborne the bookseller

tion of books, in which he
to literature, of what the
raisonné, when the subject
various, and it is executed
to impress all his readers
philological attainments.
fixed to the first volume of
the Latin accounts of book
He was employed in this b
Osborne the bookseller, wh
for 13,000*l.* a sum which
of his manuscripts, was not
of the books had cost; yet,
me, the slowness of the sa
was not much gained by it.
related, with many embell
one day knocked Osborne d
folio, and put his foot upon
truth I had from Johnson
impertinent to me, and I
not in his shop: it was in m

A very diligent observer
we should not easily suppos
have no doubt that he wrote
entitled "Foreign History,"
December. To prove it, I
duction. "As this is that
which Nature may be said to
of hostilities, and which seem
a short stop to violence and s
for malice to relent, and ani
can scarce expect any other
negociations and treaties, of p
preparations for war." As a

those who despise the capacity of the Swiss, tell by what wonderful policy, or by what happy co ciliation of interests, it is brought to pass, that in body made up of different communities and diffe ent religions, there should be no civil commotio though the people are so warlike, that to nomina and raise an army is the same."

I am obliged to Mr. Astle for his ready perm sion to copy the two following letters, of which t originals are in his possession. Their conte shew that they were written about this time, a that Johnson was now engaged in preparing historical account of the British Parliament.

"To Mr. Cave.

"SIR, [*No date*

"I BELIEVE I am going to write a long lett and have therefore taken a whole sheet of pap The first thing to be written about is our hist rical design.

"You mentioned the proposal of printing in nu bers, as an alteration in the scheme, but I belie you mistook, some way or other, my meaning; had no other view than that you might rather pri too many of five sheets than of five and thirty.

"With regard to what I shall say on the mann of proceeding, I would have it understood as who indifferent to me, and my opinion only, not my r solution. *Emptoris sit eligere.*

"I think the insertion of the exact dates of t most important events in the margin, or of so ma events as may enable the reader to regulate the ord of facts with sufficient exactness, the proper mediu

Rate of payment for work

and a history which
dependence on each
pates according to the
think the work ough
history, which is cont
of the regularity of a
with spirit. For this
bers or dates, nor reje

"I am of your op
most of the resolutio
think we shall give th
Parliamentary proceed
The naked papers, wit
terwoven, require some
understood. I will da
some exactness, but I
told me on Saturday th
this work, and found se
ing the half guinea of la
to me that you had ma
not press you too hard
only, as I send it in,
copy; the rest you ma
more convenient; and
I shall, for some time, b

"The Life of Savag
and in Great Primer, an
sending in half a sheet
that shall likewise lye
done. With the debate
enough? if I had but go

"Towards Mr. Sava
you got? I would willi
know whether his defenc

have his collection of Poems, on account of t
Preface ;—" The Plain Dealer," [1]—all the mag
zines that have any thing of his or relating to him

" I thought my letter would be long, but it
now ended ; and I am, Sir,

" Your's, &c.

" Sam. Johnson

" The boy found me writing this almost in t
dark, when I could not quite easily read yours.

" I have read the Italian :—nothing in it is we

" I had no notion of having any thing for th
Inscription.[2] I hope you don't think I kept
to extort a price. I could think of nothing, t
to-day. If you could spare me another guinea f
the history, I should take it very kindly, to-night
but if you do not, I shall not think it an injur
——I am almost well again."

" To Mr. Cave.

" sir,

" You did not tell me your determinatio
about the *Soldier's Letter*,[3] which I am confiden
was never printed. I think it will not do by itsel
or in any other place, so well as the Mag. Extra
ordinary. If you will have it at all, I believe yo
do not think I set it high, and I will be glad i
what you give, you will give quickly.

" You need not be in care about something t

[1] " The Plain Dealer " was published in 1724, and con
tained some account of Savage.

[2] [Perhaps the Runick Inscription, Gent. Mag. vol. xii
P. 132.—M.]

Ad Lauram parituram Epigramma

print, for I have got
tract Layer, Atterbu
and shall bring ther
which I will try to g

I would also ascr
Description of Chin
Halde." †

His writings in t
1743, are, the "Prefa
bates," † "Considera
Crousaz and Warburto
in which while he d
admirable metaphysic
in controversy; "A
gramma[1];" * and,

[1] *Angliacas inter pu*
Mox uteri pondu
Adsit, Laura, tibi
Neve tibi noceat

Mr. Hector was presen
impromptu. The first lin
and Johnson was called
it, which he instantly did

[The following elegant
the Gentleman's Magazin
was many years ago point
as written by Johnson, ar
him.

AD ORNATISS

VANÆ sit arti,
Formosa virg
Curamque cum

Pope's Verses on his Grotto;"* and, as he could employ his pen with equal success upon a small matter as a great, I suppose him to be the authour of an advertisement for Osborne, concerning the great Harleian Catalogue.

Ut fortuitis verna coloribus
Depicta vulgo rura magis placent,
Nec invident horto nitenti
Divitias operosiores:

Lenique fons cum murmure pulchrior
Obliquat ultro præcipitem fugam
Inter reluctantes lapillos, et
Ducit aquas temerè sequentes:

Utque inter undas, inter et arbores,
Jam vere primo dulce strepunt aves,
Et arte nulla gratiores
Ingeminant sine lege cantus:

Nativa sic te gratia, te nitor
Simplex decebit, te veneres tuæ;
Nudus Cupido suspicatur
Artifices nimis apparatûs.

Ergo fluentem tu; malè sedula,
Ne sæva inuras semper acu comam;
Nec sparsa odorato nitentes
Pulvere dedecores capillos;

Quales nec olim vel Ptolemæia
Jactabat uxor, sidereo in choro
Utcunque devotæ refulgent
Verticis exuviæ decori;

Nec diva mater, cum similem tuæ
Mentita formam, et pulchrior aspici,
Permisit incomtas protervis
Fusa comas agitare ventis.

In vol. xiv. p. 46, of the same work, an elegant Epigram

Friendship, an Ode

But I should think my
my illustrious friend and
troduce here, with more
exquisitely beautiful Od
serted in any of the colle
written by him at a very
informs me, and inserted
zine of this year.

FRIENDSHI

FRIENDSHIP, peculia
The noble mind'
To men and angels
To all the lower

While love unknow
Parent of thousa
The savage and the
Torments alike

With bright, but of
Alike o'er all hi
Thy lambent glorie
Around the fav'

Thy gentle flows o
On fools and vil
In vain for thee the
And hugs a flatt

written by Dr. Inyon of Pu
and an excellent classical s

Ad Authorem Carminis A

O qui non potuit, quia

Directress of the brave and just,
O guide us through life's darksome way!
And let the tortures of mistrust
On selfish bosoms only prey.

Nor shall thine ardour cease to glow,
When souls to blissful climes remove:
What rais'd our virtue here below,
Shall aid our happiness above.

Johnson had now an opportunity of obliging his schoolfellow Dr. James, of whom he once observed, "no man brings more mind to his profession." James published this year his "Medicinal Dictionary," in three volumes folio. Johnson, as I understood from him, had written, or assisted in writing, the proposals for this work; and being very fond of the study of physick, in which James was his master, he furnished some of the articles. He, however, certainly wrote for it the Dedication to Dr. Mead,† which is conceived with great address, to conciliate the patronage of that very eminent man.[1]

It has been circulated, I know not with what authenticity, that Johnson considered Dr. Birch as a dull writer, and said of him, "Tom Birch is as

[1] "To Dr. Mead.

"SIR,

"That the *Medicinal Dictionary* is dedicated to you, is to be imputed only to your reputation for superiour skill in those sciences which I have endeavoured to explain and facilitate: and you are, therefore, to consider this address, if it be agreeable to you, as one of the rewards of merit; and if otherwise, as one of the inconveniences of eminence.

Dr. Birch brisk as a bee in conversation; he take a pen in his hand, than it to him, and benumbs all his fac literature of this country is much activity and diligence must cer ledged. We have seen that him with a Greek Epigram; ar ence with him, during many yea had no mean opinion of him.

"To Dr. Birc

"SIR, Thursday

"I HOPE you will excuse m on an occasion on which I know can apply to; I am at a loss f Characters of Earl Stanhope, the the minister Sunderland; and l inform [me] where I may find any pamphlets, &c. relating to t to be perused for a few days by,

"Your most humb

"

His circumstances were at this t yet his affection for his mother wa liberal, that he took upon himsel

disappointed; because this publick ap ment will shew that I do not found n bation upon the ignorance of my read his censure least, whose knowledge I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient hum

which, though small in itself, was then considera to him. This appears from the following le which he wrote to Mr. Levett, of Lichfield, original of which lies now before me.

"To Mr. Levett; in Lichfield.

"Sir, December 1, 17

"I am extremely sorry that we have croached so much upon your forbearance with spect to the interest, which a great perplexity affairs hindered me from thinking of with attention that I ought, and which I am not mediately able to remit to you, but will pay it think twelve pounds,) in two months. I l upon this, and on the future interest of that m gage, as my own debt; and beg that you will pleased to give me directions how to pay it, not mention it to my dear mother. If it be ne sary to pay this in less time, I believe I can it; but I take two months for certainty, and an answer whether you can allow me so m time. I think myself very much obliged to y forbearance, and shall esteem it a great happi to be able to serve you. I have great opportun of dispersing any thing that you may think it pr to make publick. I will give a note for the mo payable at the time mentioned, to any one here you shall appoint. I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient

"And most humble servant,

"Sam. John

Life of Savage

It does not appe
1744 for the Gentle
face.† His life of
in a pamphlet by itse
this year, fully suffici
tation which he had
Life of Richard Sa
is difficult to speak i
that he was for some
of Johnson; for his
profligacy, insolence,
undoubtedly had a wa
regulated mind, had s
been much in the co
wits of his time, he c
an abundant supply of
sophical curiosity mo
Savage's misfortunes a
him to the lowest state

† As a specimen of his
letter from him to a noble
great obligations, but wh
duct, was obliged to disc
the hands of the late Fra
of his Majesty's Counsel l

"*Right Honourable* Brut

"I find you want (as
to swear away my life, tha
because he asks you for a
be acquainted with this,
fitter to be an Irish Eviden
I defy and despise you.

"I am,

"Yo

for bread, his visits to St. John's Gate natur
brought Johnson and him together.[1]

It is melancholy to reflect, that Johnson
Savage were sometimes in such extreme indigen

[1] Sir John Hawkins gives the world to underst
that Johnson, "being an admirer of genteel mann
was captivated by the address and demeanour of Sav
who, as to his exterior, was to a remarkable degree
complished."—Hawkins's Life, p. 52. But Sir Jo
notions of gentility must appear somewhat ludicr
from his stating the following circumstance as presu
tive evidence that Savage was a good swordsman: "T
he understood the exercise of a gentleman's weapon,
be inferred from the use made of it in that rash encou
which is related in his life." The dexterity here allu
to was, that Savage, in a nocturnal fit of drunkenn
stabbed a man at a coffee-house, and killed him:
which he was tried at the Old-Bailey, and found gu
of murder.

Johnson, indeed, describes him as having "a grave
manly deportment, a solemn dignity of mien; but wh
upon a nearer acquaintance, softened into an engag
easiness of manners." How highly Johnson admi
him for that knowledge which he himself so much
tivated, and what kindness he entertained for h
appears from the following lines in the Gentlema
Magazine for April, 1738, which I am assured w
written by Johnson:

"*Ad* RICARDUM SAVAGE.

"*Humani studium generis cui pectore fervet*
O colat humanum te foveatque genus."

[2] [The following striking proof of Johnson's extre
indigence, when he published the Life of Savage,
communicated to Mr. Boswell, by Mr. Richard Sto
of Apsley, in Bedfordshire, from the information of M
Walter Harte, authour of the Life of Gustavus Adolph

"Soon after Savage's Life was published, Mr. Ha

Johnson and Savage

that they could not pay for a lodgi
have wandered together whole nigh
Yet in these almost incredible scen
may suppose that Savage mention
anecdotes with which Johnson afte
the life of his unhappy companio
other Poets.

He told Sir Joshua Reynolds, t
particular, when Savage and he w
James's-square for want of a lod
not at all depressed by their situati
spirits and brimful of patriotism, trav

Soon after, meeting him, Cave said, '
very happy t'other day.'—'How cou
Harte; 'nobody was there but ourselves.
by reminding him that a plate of vict
hind a screen, which was to Johnson, d
that he did not choose to appear; but on
versation, he was highly delighted wit
on his book."—M.]

[1] [As Johnson was married before h
don, and must have always had a habita
some readers have wondered, how he
been driven to stroll about with Savag
want of a lodging. But it should be
Johnson, at different periods, had lodgin
of London; and his finances certainly
of a double establishment. When, ther
convivial day in London, and found it t
to any country residence he may occasi
having no lodging in town, he was ob
night in the manner described above;
that period, it was not uncommon for t
together, Savage, it appears, could ac
with nothing but his company in the
Epigram given above, which doubtless
Johnson, shews, that their

for several hours, inveighed against the minister, a
"resolved they would *stand by their country*."

I am afraid, however, that by associating w
Savage, who was habituated to the dissipation a
licentiousness of the town, Johnson, though his ge
principles remained steady, did not entirely prese
that conduct, for which, in days of greater simp
city, he was remarked by his friend Mr. Hect
but was imperceptibly led into some indulgen
which occasioned much distress to his virtuous mi

That Johnson was anxious that an authent
and favourable account of his extraordinary fri
should first get possession of the publick attenti
is evident from a letter which he wrote in
Gentleman's Magazine for August of the year p
ceding its publication.

"MR. URBAN,

"As your collections show how often
have owed the ornaments of your poetical pages
the correspondence of the unfortunate and ingeni
Mr. Savage, I doubt not but you have so mu
regard to his memory as to encourage any des
that may have a tendency to the preservation o
from insults or calumnies; and therefore, w
some degree of assurance, intreat you to inform
publick, that his life will speedily be published b
person who was favoured with his confidence, a
received from himself an account of most of
transactions which he proposes to mention, to
time of his retirement to Swansea in Wales.

"From that period, to his death in the prison
Bristol, the account will be continued from mater

Reynolds and the Life of Savage

those of his friends, some
in the work, and abstrac
the margin.

"It may be reasonab
may have the same design
that they can obtain the s
expected they will supply
of intelligence; and that
Life of Savage,' they w
filled with romantick ac
amours. You may there
lovers of truth and wit, by
them in your Magazine,
published in 8vo. by Mr
lane."

In February, 1744, it
from the shop of Robe
Johnson I have not trace
the casual one of this pu
"Life of Savage," altho
that its moral is the rever
plar vitæ morumque jubebo,'
inculcated, to guard men
too free indulgence of the
dents are related in so clea
and illuminated throughout
that it is one of the most
the English language. Si
me, that upon his return
it in Devonshire, knowing
and began to read it while
arm leaning against a chimn

down the book till he had finished it, whe attempted to move, he found his arm totally numbed. The rapidity with which this work composed, is a wonderful circumstance. Joh has been heard to say, "I wrote forty-eight o printed octavo pages of the Life of Savage sitting; but then I sat up all night."[1]

He exhibits the genius of Savage to the advantage, in the specimens of his poetry w he has selected, some of which are of uncom merit. We, indeed, occasionally find such v and such point, as might make us suppose tha generous aid of Johnson had been imparted t friend. Mr. Thomas Warton made this re to me; and, in support of it, quoted from the entitled "The Bastard," a line in which the fa superiority of one "stamped in Nature's mint extasy," is contrasted with a regular lawful scendant of some great and ancient family:

"No tenth transmitter of a foolish face."

But the fact is, that this poem was published years before Johnson and Savage were acquaint

It is remarkable, that in this biographical quisition there appears a very strong sympto Johnson's prejudice against players; a preju which may be attributed to the following cau first, the imperfection of his organs, which we defective that he was not susceptible of the impressions which theatrical excellence proc upon the generality of mankind; secondly, the rejection of his tragedy; and, lastly, the bril

Corrects Garrick's emphasis

success of Garrick, who had
had come to London at the
not in a much more prosperou
and whose talents he undoubte
pared with his own. His bei
pupil in the race of immediat
fortune, probably made him fe
as thinking that whatever migh
in his art, the reward was too g
with what the most successfu
labour could attain. At all
Johnson used to talk contemp
but in this work he speaks o
acrimony; for which, perhaps,
too much reason from the lic
manners of those engaged in th
but justice to add, that in ou
change has taken place, that
room for such an unfavourable

His schoolfellow and friend,
a pleasant anecdote of Johnson'
pupil, David Garrick. When
played some little time at Good
son and Taylor went to see him
wards passed the evening at a t
old Giffard. Johnson, who w
stage-players, after censuring so
phasis, which Garrick had com
of that night's acting, said, "th
got a kind of rant, with which t
any regard either to accent or
Garrick and Giffard were offend
and endeavoured to refute it; u
rejoined, "Well now, I'll give

speak, with which you are little acquainted, and t
we shall see how just my observation is. T
shall be the criterion. Let me hear you repeat
ninth Commandment, "Thou shalt not bear f
witness against thy neighbour." Both tried at
said Dr. Taylor, and both mistook the empha
which should be upon *not* and *false witness*.[1] Jo
son put them right, and enjoyed his victory w
great glee.

His "Life of Savage" was no sooner publish
than the following liberal praise was given to
in "The Champion," a periodical paper: "T
pamphlet is, without flattery to its authour, as
and well written a piece as of its kind I ever sa
so that at the same time that it highly deserves
certainly stands very little in need of this reco
mendation. As to the history of the unfortun
person, whose memoirs compose this work, it
certainly penned with equal accuracy and spirit,
which I am so much the better judge, as I kn
many of the facts mentioned to be strictly true,
very fairly related. Besides, it is not only the st
of Mr. Savage, but innumerable incidents relating
other persons, and other affairs, which renders t
a very amusing, and, withal, a very instructive
valuable performance. The authour's observati
are short, significant, and just, as his narrative

[1] I suspect Dr. Taylor was inaccurate in this statem
The emphasis should be equally upon *shalt* and *not*
both concur to form the negative injunction; and *f*
witness, like the other acts prohibited in the Decalog
should not be marked by any peculiar emphasis, but o
be distinctly enunciated.

Parentage of Savage

remarkably smooth, and wel
tions open to all the recesse
and, in a word, a more ju
engaging or a more improv
excellencies and defects of
to be found in our own,
language."[1]

Johnson's partiality for Sa
tain no doubt of his story,
and improbable. It never oc
tion his being the son of the C
of whose unrelenting barbari
plained, and the particulars o
so strong and affecting a ma
of him. Johnson was certa
publishing his narrative, howe
be to the lady and her relation
unnatural and cruel conduct t
ful avowal of guilt, were state
now lying before me, which
1727, and no attempt had be
or to punish the authour or
but for the honour of human
glad to find the shocking tale
respectable gentleman[2] conne
family, I have received such
marks, as joined to my own in

[1] This character of the Life of
by Fielding, as has been supposed
Ralph, who, as appears from the
of 'The Champion' in the poss
Staple Inn, succeeded Fielding in
before the date of that eulogium.

[2] The late Francis Cockayne
Majesty's Counsel.

render it at least somewhat doubtful, especially wi
we consider that it must have originated from
person himself who went by the name of Rich
Savage.

If the maxim, *falsum in uno, falsum in omni*
were to be received without qualification, the cr
of Savage's narrative, as conveyed to us, would
annihilated; for it contains some assertions whi
beyond a question, are not true.

1. In order to induce a belief that the E
Rivers, on account of a criminal connection w
whom, Lady Macclesfield is said to have b
divorced from her husband, by Act of Parliame
had a peculiar anxiety about the child which
bore to him, it is alledged, that his Lordship g
him his own name, and had it duly recorded in
register of St. Andrew's, Holborn. I have ca
fully inspected that register, but no such entry is
be found.[2]

[1] 1697.

[2] [Mr. Cust's reasoning, with respect to the filia
of Richard Savage, always appeared to me extremely
satisfactory; and is entirely overturned by the follow
decisive observations, for which the reader is indebte
the unwearied researches of Mr. Bindley.—The story
which Mr. Cust so much relies, that Savage was a s
posititious child, not the son of Lord Rivers and L
Macclesfield, but the offspring of a shoemaker, introdu
in consequence of her real son's death, was, with
doubt, grounded on the circumstance of Lady Macc
field's having, in 1696, previously to the birth of Sava
had a daughter by the Earl Rivers, who died in her
fancy: a fact, which, as the same gentleman observes
me, was proved in the course of the proceedings on L
Macclesfield's Bill of Divorce. Most fictions of this k
have some admixture of truth in them.—M.]

Lady Macclesfield

2. It is stated, that "Lady M lived for some time upon very u her husband, thought a publick c tery the most obvious and exped obtaining her liberty;" and John to be true, stigmatises her with inc wretch who had, without scruple, self an adultress."[1] But I have nals of both houses of Parliament her divorce, and there find it au

1697–8, was presented to the Lords, i an act of divorce, it appears, that " Macclesfield, under the name of Mad vered of a male child in Fox Court, Holborn, by Mrs. Wright, a midwi 16th of January, 1696–7, at six o'clo who was baptized on the Monday fo tered by the name of RICHARD, the so Mr. Burbridge, assistant to Dr. Mann St. Andrew's, Holborn: that the chil Monday the 18th of January, in Fo the privacy, was supposed by Mr. by-blow, or bastard." It also appea delivery, the lady wore a mask; and on the next day after the baptism (Tu child, whose mother was called Mad house of Mrs. Pheasant, in Fox Co Brook-street into Gray's-Inn Lane,] name of Mrs. Lee.

Conformable to this statement is th ter of St. Andrew's, Holborn, which which unquestionably records the b Savage, to whom Lord Rivers gave name, prefixed to the assumed surna Jan. 1696–7. "RICHARD, son of John in Fox Court, in Gray's-Inn Lane, ba BINDLEY.]

[1] [No divorce can be obtained in

tained, that so far from voluntarily submitting to the ignominious charge of adultery, she made a strenuous defence by her Counsel; the bill having been first moved the 15th of January, 1697–8, in the house of Lords, and proceeded on, (with various applications for time to bring up witnesses at a distance, &c.) at intervals, till the 3d of March, when it passed. It was brought to the Commons, by a message from the Lords, the 5th of March, proceeded on the 7th, 10th, 11th, 14th, and 15th, on which day, after a full examination of witnesses on both sides and hearing of Counsel, it was reported without amendments, passed, and carried to the Lords. That Lady Macclesfield was convicted of the crime of which she was accused, cannot be denied; but the question now is, whether the person calling himself Richard Savage was her son.

The divorce proceedings

It has been said,[1] that when Earl Rivers was dying, and anxious to provide for all his natural children, he was informed by Lady Macclesfield that her son by him was dead. Whether, then, shall we believe that this was a malignant lie, invented by a mother to prevent her own child from receiving the bounty of his father, which was accordingly the consequence, if the person whose life Johnson wrote, was her son; or shall we not rather believe that the person who then assumed the name of Richard Savage was an impostor, being in reality the son of the shoe-maker, under whose wife's care [2]

[1] [By Johnson, in his Life of Savage.—M.]

[2] [This, as an accurate friend remarks to me, is not

The legacy to Savage

Lady Macclesfield's child was p
the death of the real Richard Sav
to personate him; and that the fi
to Lady Macclesfield, he was the
her with just resentment.

There is a strong circumstance
last supposition; though it has b
an aggravation of Lady Maccle
conduct, and that is, her havin
from obtaining the benefit of a l
by Mrs. Lloyd, his god-mother
was such a legacy left, his not be
payment of it, must be imputed
ness that he was not the real pe
inference should be, that by the
Macclesfield's child before its
legacy became lapsed, and therefo
Richard Savage was an impostor.

If he had a title to the legacy, h
found any difficulty in recovering
executors resisted his claim, the
well as the legacy, must have been
he had been the child to whom it

The talents of Savage, and th
rudeness, pride, meanness, and ferc
acter,[1] concur in making it credi

was not the husband of his nurse.—
of Savage.—J. Boswell.]

[1] Johnson's companion appears to h
lofty-minded man, that he resembled
noble pride; for Johnson, after painti
ours the quarrel between Lord Tyrco
asserts that "the spirit of Mr. Sava
suffered him to solicit a reconciliati

fit to plan and carry on an ambitious and da
scheme of imposture, similar instances of wh
have not been wanting in higher spheres, in
history of different countries, and have had a c
siderable degree of success.

Yet, on the other hand, to the companion
Johnson, (who, through whatever medium he
conveyed into this world,—be it ever so doub
"To whom related, or by whom begot," was,
questionably, a man of no common endowmen
we must allow the weight of general repute as
his *Status* or parentage, though illicit; and supp
ing him to be an impostor, it seems strange
Lord Tyrconnel, the nephew of Lady Macc
field, should patronise him, and even admit hin
a guest in his family.[1] Lastly, it must ever app

respectable gentleman to whom I have alluded, ha
his possession a letter from Savage, after Lord Tyrco
had discarded him, addressed to the Reverend
Gilbert, his Lordship's Chaplain, in which he requ
him, in the humblest manner, to represent his case to
Viscount.

[1] Trusting to Savage's information, Johnson repres
this unhappy man's being received as a companion
Lord Tyrconnel, and pensioned by his Lordship
posteriour to Savage's conviction and pardon. But
assured, that Savage had received the voluntary bou
of Lord Tyrconnel, and had been dismissed by him
before the murder was committed, and that his Lord
was very instrumental in procuring Savage's pardon
his intercession with the Queen, through Lady Hertf
If, therefore, he had been desirous of preventing
publication by Savage, he would have left him to
fate. Indeed I must observe, that although John
mentions that Lord Tyrconnel's patronage of Sa
was "upon his promise to lay aside his design of ex

Lady Macclesfield's silence

very suspicious, that three d
Life of Richard Savage, o
Plain Dealer," in 1724,
another by the powerful pen
and all of them while Lady
should, notwithstanding the s
have been suffered to pass w
effectual contradiction.

I have thus endeavoured t
upon the case, as fairly as
seems to be, that the world
of uncertainty as to what was

This digression, I trust, w
it relates to a matter exceedi
intimately connected with Jo
and an authour.[1]

forgotten that he himself has
story had been told several yea
Dealer;" from which he quote
the generous Sir Richard Steele
of his mother had given him a
man his father." At the same t
ledged, that Lady Macclesfield a
still wish that her story shoul
more conspicuous notice by the s

[1] Miss Mason, after having fo
Macclesfield by divorce, was ma
and, it is said, was well known i
Colley Cibber, I am informed, h
of her taste and judgement as to g
that he submitted every scene of
to Mrs. Brett's revisal and corr
was reported to be free in his ga
Maid. Mrs. Brett came into a ro
house, and found the Colonel a
asleep in two chairs. She tied
round her husband's neck, which

He this year wrote "the Preface to the Ha
Miscellany."* The selection of the pamph
which it was composed was made by Mr. C
a man of eager curiosity, and indefatigable dili
who first exerted that spirit of inquiry int
literature of the old English writers, by whic
works of our great dramatic poet have of late
so signally illustrated.

In 1745 he published a pamphlet en
"Miscellaneous Observations on the Trage
Macbeth, with Remarks on Sir T. H.'s
Thomas Hanmer's) Edition of Shakspea
To which he affixed, proposals for a new e
of that poet.

As we do not trace any thing else publish
him during the course of this year, we may co
ture that he was occupied entirely with that
But the little encouragement which was giv
the publick to his anonymous proposals fo
execution of a task which Warburton was l
to have undertaken, probably damped his a
His pamphlet, however, was highly esteeme
was fortunate enough to obtain the approbation
of the supercilious Warburton himself, who,
Preface to his Shakspeare published two years
wards, thus mentioned it: "As to all those
which have been published under the titles of *E*
Remarks, *Observations*, &c. on Shakspeare,
except some Critical Notes on Macbeth, giv
a specimen of a projected edition, and writt

that she had discovered his intrigue; but she n
any time took notice of it to him. This incide
am told, gave occasion to the well-wrought scene

Contemplates a Life of Alfred

appears, by a man of parts and g
absolutely below a serious notice.'

Of this flattering distinction
Warburton, a very grateful reme
entertained by Johnson, who said
at a time when praise was of valu

In 1746 it is probable that he
upon his Shakspeare, which perh
for a time, upon account of the
which were formed of Warburto
great poet. It is somewhat curiou
career appears to have been almos
in the years 1745 and 1746, t
were marked by a civil war in G
a rash attempt was made to rest
Stuart to the throne. That he
for that unfortunate House, is w
some may fancifully imagine, tha
anxiety impeded the exertion o
powers: but I am inclined to th
during this time, sketching the ou
philological work.

None of his letters during tho
tant, so far as I can discover. T
regretted. It might afford some
see how he then expressed hims
friends concerning State affairs.
forms me, that "at this time a
which he had in contemplation w
Alfred;' in which, from the war
he spoke about it, he would, I beli
master of his own will, have engag
than on any other subject."

Magazine for May was enriched by him with
short poetical pieces, distinguished by three aste
The first is a translation, or rather a paraph
of a Latin Epitaph on Sir Thomas Han
Whether the Latin was his, or not, I have
heard, though I should think it probably wa
it be certain that he wrote the English; as to w
my only cause of doubt is, that his slighting
acter of Hanmer as an editor, in his "Observa
on Macbeth," is very different from that in
Epitaph. It may be said, that there is the
contrariety between the character in the Obs
tions, and that in his own Preface to Shakspe
but a considerable time elapsed between the
publication and the other, whereas the Observa
and the Epitaph came close together. The o
are, "To Miss ——, on her giving the Aut
a gold and silk net-work Purse of her own w
ing;" "Stella in Mourning;" "The Win
Walk;" "An Ode;" and, "To Lyce, an el
Lady." I am not positive that all these
his productions;[1] but as "The Winter's Wa
has never been controverted to be his, and a
them have the same mark, it is reasonable to
clude that they are all written by the same h

[1] [In the UNIVERSAL VISITER, to which Johnson
tributed, the mark which is affixed to some pieces
questionably his, is also found subjoined to other
which he certainly was not the authour. The
therefore will not ascertain the poems in questio
have been written by him. Some of them were prob
the productions of Hawkesworth, who, it is belie
was afflicted with the gout. The verses on a Purse

Namby-pamby rhymes

Yet to the Ode, in which we characteristick of him, being a of the gout,

"Unhappy, whom to b
Arthritick tyranny

there is the following note, "T of the gout:" but Johnson wa that distemper till a very late May not this, however, be a poe may not a poet suppose himse as well as suppose himself to b we have innumerable instances, admirably ridiculed by Johnso Cowley"? I have also some that he could produce such a appear in the verses to Lyce, for this ancient personage as assimilated to *heaven*, as ny poets have flattered; he therefo to her the attributes of the s as this:

"Her teeth the *night* wit
She's *starr'd* with pi
Her tongue like nimble
And can with *thunde*

But as at a very advanced age to trifle in *namby-pamby* rhyn Thrale and her daughter, he ma years, composed such a piece as

Winter's Walk," the concluding line is much mo
Johnsonian than it was afterwards printed; for
subsequent editions, after praying Stella to "snat
him to her arms," he says,

"And *shield* me from the *ills* of life."

Whereas in the first edition it is

"And *hide* me from the *sight* of life."

A horrour at life in general is more consonant wi
Johnson's habitual gloomy cast of thought.

I have heard him repeat with great energy t
following verses, which appeared in the Gentlema
Magazine for April this year; but I have no auth
rity to say they were his own. Indeed one of t
best criticks of our age suggests to me, that "t
word *indifferently* being used in the sense of *with*
concern, and being also very unpoetical, renders
improbable that they should have been his co
position."

"*On Lord* LOVAT's *Execution.*

"Pity'd by *gentle minds* KILMARNOCK died;
The *brave*, BALMERINO, were on thy side;
RADCLIFFE, unhappy in his crimes of youth,
Steady in what he still mistook for truth,
Beheld his death so decently unmov'd,
The *soft* lamented, and the *brave* approv'd.
But LOVAT's fate indifferently we view,
True to no *King*, to no *religion* true:
No *fair* forgets the *ruin* he has done;

Prologue for Garrick

No *tory* pities, thinking
No *whig* compassions,
The *brave* regret not, f
The *honest* mourn not,

This year his old pupil
rick, having become joint
Drury-lane theatre, Johns
of it with a Prologue,* w
dramatick criticism on the
lish stage, as well as for
unrivalled. Like the cel
"Distressed Mother," it

[1] These verses are somewh
ordinary person who is the
he was undoubtedly brave.
solemn trial (in which, by t
David Hume observe, that we
speeches of Mr. Murray, now
tically given) was very remar
had any questions to put to Si
was one of the strongest w
answered "I only wish him
And after sentence of death,
such cases of treason, was pr
he was retiring from the bar,
my Lords, we shall not all n
He behaved with perfect compo
called out "*Dulce et decorum est p*

[2] My friend Mr. Courtenay, v
Latin Poetry has been inserted
happy in praising his English

But hark, he sings! the str
Indignant virtue her own ba
Sublime as Juvenal he pours
And with the Roman shares
In glowing numbers now he
And Shakspeare's sun relum

often called for by the audience. The most str
ing and brilliant passages of it have been so of
repeated, and are so well recollected by all
lovers of the drama, and of poetry, that it wo
be superfluous to point them out. In the Gen
man's Magazine for December this year, he
serted an "Ode on Winter," which is, I think,
admirable specimen of his genius for lyrick poetr

But the year 1747 is distinguished as the epo
when Johnson's arduous and important work,
DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, was
nounced to the world, by the publication of its P
or PROSPECTUS.

How long this immense undertaking had b
the object of his contemplation, I do not know.
once asked him by what means he had attained
that astonishing knowledge of our language,
which he was enabled to realize a design of su
extent and accumulated difficulty. He told
that "it was not the effect of particular study;
that it had grown up in his mind insensibly."
have been informed by Mr. James Dodsley, t
several years before this period, when Johnson
one day sitting in his brother Robert's shop,
heard his brother suggest to him, that a Diction
of the English Language would be a work t
would be well received by the publick; that Jol
son seemed at first to catch at the proposition, b
after a pause, said, in his abrupt decisive mann
"I believe I shall not undertake it." That
however, had bestowed much thought upon
subject, before he published his "Plan," is evid
from the enlarged, clear, and accurate views whi

Contract for Dictionary

tract, that many of the writers were to be produced as author by Pope; which proves that he probably by Mr. Robert Dodsl hints that eminent poet had con great literary project, that had b important consideration in a form

The booksellers who contrac single and unaided, for the exe which in other countries has no by the co-operating exertions o Robert Dodsley, Mr. Charles H Millar, the two Messieurs Long Messieurs Knapton. The pri fifteen hundred and seventy-five

The "Plan" was addressed Earl of Chesterfield, then one of cipal Secretaries of State; a n very ambitious of literary distincti being informed of the design, had in terms very favourable to its s perhaps, in every thing of any co history which it would be amusi we have it authentically commu told me,[1] "Sir, the way in whic Dictionary came to be inscribed field, was this: I had neglected time appointed. Dodsley sugg have it addressed to Lord Ch hold of this as a pretext for de be better done, and let Dodsley h said to my friend, Dr. Bathurst,

[1] September 22, 1777, going from A shire, to see Islam.

comes of my addressing to Lord Chesterfiel
will be ascribed to deep policy, when, in fac
was only a casual excuse for laziness."

It is worthy of observation, that the "Plan"
not only the substantial merit of comprehen
perspicuity, and precision, but that the languag
it is unexceptionably excellent; it being altoge
free from that inflation of style, and those unc
mon but apt and energetick words, which in s
of his writings have been censured, with more p
lance than justice; and never was there a n
dignified strain of compliment than that in whic
courts the attention of one, who, he had been
suaded to believe, would be a respectable patron

"With regard to questions of purity or propr
(says he) I was once in doubt whether I sh
not attribute to myself too much in attemptin
decide them, and whether my province was to
tend beyond the proposition of the question, and
display of the suffrages on each side; but I
been since determined by your Lordship's opin
to interpose my own judgement, and shall there
endeavour to support what appears to me most
sonant to grammar and reason. Ausonius tho
that modesty forbade him to plead inability f
task to which Cæsar had judged him equal:

Cur me posse negem, posse quod ille putat?

And I may hope, my Lord, that since you, w
authority in our language is so generally ackn
ledged, have commissioned me to declare my
opinion, I shall be considered as exercising a
of vicarious jurisdiction; and that the power w

Lord Orrery praises the "Plan"

be readily allowed me as the d
Lordship."

This passage proves, that Johns
his "Plan" to Lord Chesterfield
in consequence of the result of a
of Dodsley, that the Earl favoured
that there had been a particular com
his Lordship concerning it. Dr.
that Johnson sent his "Plan" to hin
for his perusal; and that when it
his table, Mr. William Whitehead
him a visit, and being shewn it, was
with such parts of it as he had tir
begged to take it home with him,
allowed to do; that from him it go
of a noble Lord, who carried it to
field. When Taylor observed thi
advantage, Johnson replied, "No,
have come out with more bloom, if
seen before by any body."

The opinion conceived of it by
authour, appears from the followin
letter from the Earl of Orrery to D

"Caledon,

"I have just now seen the sp
Johnson's Dictionary, addressed to
field. I am much pleased with t
think the specimen is one of the b
ever read. Most specimens disgu
prejudice us in favour of the work
the language of Mr. Johnson's is
arguments are properly and mode

they are trifles. I'll mention one: the *barren* la
The laurel is not barren, in any sense whate
it bears fruits and flowers. *Sed hæ sunt nugæ, a*
have great expectations from the performance.'

That he was fully aware of the arduous natu
the undertaking, he acknowledges; and shews
self perfectly sensible of it in the conclusion o
"Plan;" but he had a noble consciousness o
own abilities, which enabled him to go on with
daunted spirit.

Dr. Adams found him one day busy at his
tionary, when the following dialogue ensue
"Adams. This is a great work, Sir. How
you to get all the etymologies? Johnson. W
Sir, here is a shelf with Junius, and Skinner,
others; and there is a Welch gentleman who
published a collection of Welch proverbs, who
help me with the Welch. Adams. But, Sir,
can you do this in three years? Johnson. S
have no doubt that I can do it in three y
Adams. But the French Academy, which co
of forty members, took forty years to compile
Dictionary. Johnson. Sir, thus it is. This i
proportion. Let me see; forty times forty is
teen hundred. As three to sixteen hundred, so i
proportion of an Englishman to a Frenchman." W
so much ease and pleasantry could he talk of that
digious labour which he had undertaken to exe

The publick has had, from another pen,[2] a
detail of what had been done in this country

[1] Birch MSS. Brit. Mus. 4303.
[2] See Sir John Hawkins's Life of Johnson.
[Sir John Hawkins's list of former English Dictio

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it bears fruits and flowers. *Sed hæ sunt nugæ*,
have great expectations from the performance."

That he was fully aware of the arduous natu
the undertaking, he acknowledges; and shews
self perfectly sensible of it in the conclusion o
"Plan;" but he had a noble consciousness o
own abilities, which enabled him to go on with
daunted spirit.

Dr. Adams found him one day busy at his
tionary, when the following dialogue ensue
"Adams. This is a great work, Sir. How
you to get all the etymologies? Johnson. W
Sir, here is a shelf with Junius, and Skinner,
others; and there is a Welch gentleman who
published a collection of Welch proverbs, who
help me with the Welch. Adams. But, Sir,
can you do this in three years? Johnson. S
have no doubt that I can do it in three y
Adams. But the French Academy, which co
of forty members, took forty years to compile
Dictionary. Johnson. Sir, thus it is. This i
proportion. Let me see; forty times forty is
teen hundred. As three to sixteen hundred, so i
proportion of an Englishman to a Frenchman." W
so much ease and pleasantry could he talk of that
digious labour which he had undertaken to exe

The publick has had, from another pen,[2] a
detail of what had been done in this country

[1] Birch MSS. Brit. Mus. 4303.
[2] See Sir John Hawkins's Life of Johnson.
[Sir John Hawkins's list of former English Dictio

His Scottish amanuenses

prior Lexicographers; and no
wise, to avail himself of them,
but the learned, yet judicious r
the various, yet accurate displ
the rich collection of authorities
superiour mind of our great
mechanical part he employed
amanuenses; and let it be reme
of North-Britain, to whom h
been so hostile, that five of
country. There were two
Mr. Shiels, who, we shall
wrote the Lives of the Poets
of Cibber is affixed:[1] Mr.
George Stewart, bookseller a
Mr. Maitland. The sixth of
ants was Mr. Peyton, who, I b
and published some elementary

To all these painful laboure
never-ceasing kindness, so far
of it. The elder Mr. Macbe
honour of being Librarian to
Argyle, for many years, but
shilling. Johnson wrote fo
"A System of Ancient Geog
favour of Lord Thurlow, got
brother of the Charterhouse.
of a consumption, he had mu
has been thought that some cl
Lives of the Poets were suppl
when reduced to penury, had
bounty of Johnson, who at las
of burying him and his wife.

[1] See Vol. iv. under A

While the Dictionary was going forward, Jo
son lived part of the time in Holborn, part
Gough-square, Fleet-street; and he had an up
room fitted up like a counting-house for the p
pose, in which he gave to the copyists their sev
tasks. The words, partly taken from other dicti
aries, and partly supplied by himself, having b
first written down with spaces left between th
he delivered in writing their etymologies, definiti
and various significations. The authorities w
copied from the books themselves, in which he
marked the passages with a black-lead pencil,
traces of which could easily be effaced. I h
seen several of them, in which that trouble had
been taken; so that they were just as when u
by the copyists. It is remarkable, that he was
attentive in the choice of the passages in wh
words were authorised, that one may read p
after page of his Dictionary with improvement
pleasure; and it should not pass unobserved,
he has quoted no authour whose writings had
tendency to hurt sound religion and morality.

The necessary expence of preparing a work
such magnitude for the press, must have bee
considerable deduction from the price stipula
to be paid for the copyright. I understand
nothing was allowed by the booksellers on
account; and I remember his telling me, tha
large portion of it having, by mistake, been wri
upon both sides of the paper, so as to be inc
venient for the compositor, it cost him twe
pounds to have it transcribed upon one side only

He is now to be considered as "tugging at

The Ivy Lane Club

occupation, sufficient to em
some years; and which w
of that constitutional melan
lurking about him, ready to
his enlarged and lively mind
without more diversity of
pleasure of animated relaxati
only exerted his talents in
very different from Lexico
club in Ivy lane, Paternoste
enjoy literary discussion, an
hours. The members asso
little society were, his belov
Bathurst, Mr. Hawkesworth,
by his writings, Mr. John H
and a few others of different

In the Gentleman's Mag

[1] [For the sake of relaxation
and probably also for Mrs. Jo
summer visited Tunbridge Wel
greater resort than it is at
Mr. Cibber, Mr. Garrick, Mr.
Whiston, Mr. Onslow, (the S
Lyttelton, and several other dist
print, representing some of "th
who were at Tunbridge Wells i
a drawing of the same size, (
SPONDENCE,) Dr. Johnson stands

[2] He was afterwards for seven
Middlesex Justices, and upon o
address to the King, accepted th
hood. He is authour of "A
five volumes in quarto. By ass
Johnson in his last illness, he o
of his executors; in consequen
sellers of London employed him
Dr. Johnson's works, and to wr

year he wrote a "Life of Roscommon," * w
Notes; which he afterwards much improved, (
denting the notes into text,) and inserted amon
his Lives of the English Poets.

Mr. Dodsley this year brought out his PREC
TOR, one of the most valuable books for the i
provement of young minds that has appeared in
language; and to this meritorious work John
furnished "The Preface," * containing a gene
sketch of the book, with a short and perspicu
recommendation of each article; as also, "T
Vision of Theodore, the Hermit, found in
Cell," * a most beautiful allegory of human l
under the figure of ascending the mountain
Existence. The Bishop of Dromore heard J
Johnson say, that he thought this was the b
thing he ever wrote.

In January, 1749, he published "THE VAN
OF HUMAN WISHES, being the Tenth Satire
Juvenal imitated." * He, I believe, composed
the preceding year.[1] Mrs. Johnson, for the s
of country air, had lodgings at Hampstead,
which he resorted occasionally, and there
greatest part, if not the whole, of this Imitat
was written. The fervid rapidity with which
was produced, is scarcely credible. I have he
him say, that he composed seventy lines of it
one day, without putting one of them upon pa
till they were finished. I remember when I o

[1] Sir John Hawkins, with solemn inaccuracy, rep
sents this poem as a consequence of the indifferent rec
tion of his tragedy. But the fact is, that the poem
published on the 9th of January, and the tragedy

"The Vanity of Human Wishes"

regretted to him that he ha
Juvenal's Satires, he said, h
more, for he had them all in
understood, that he had th
spondent allusions floating i
could, when he pleased, em
manent without much labo
however, he observed were t

The profits of a single poe
appear to have been very s
compared with what a public
has since been known to yiel
upon Johnson's own authorit
he had only ten guineas; a
was established, he got for h
Wishes" but five guineas m
authentick document in my

It will be observed, that
the right of printing one editi
was his practice upon occasio
writings; it being his fixed
some period, for his own pro
tion of his works.

His "Vanity of Human
common life, but more of
than his "London." Mo
will be delighted with the p
don," than with the profoun

1 "Nov. 25, 1748, I receive
guineas, for which I assign to
an Imitation of the Tenth Sati
me; reserving to myself the righ

"London, 29 June, 1786.

Vanity of Human Wishes." Garrick, for instance observed in his sprightly manner, with more vivacity than regard to just discrimination, as is usual with wits, "When Johnson lived much with the Herveys, and saw a good deal of what was passing in life, he wrote his 'London,' which is lively and easy: when he became more retired, he gave us his 'Vanity of Human Wishes,' which is as hard as Greek. Had he gone on to imitate another satire, it would have been as hard as Hebrew." [1]

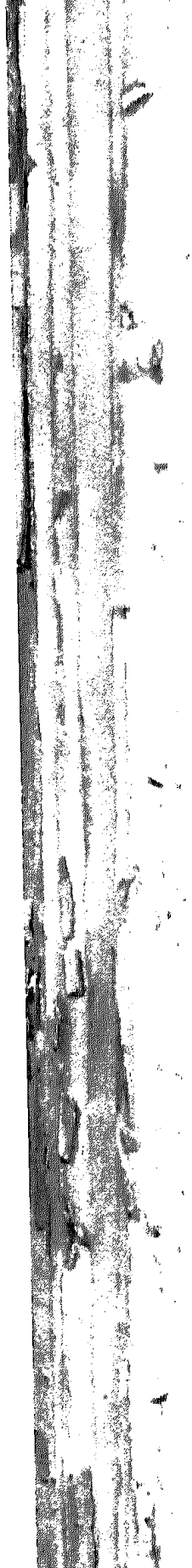
But "The Vanity of Human Wishes" is, in the opinion of the best judges, as high an effort of ethick poetry as any language can shew. The instances of variety of disappointment are chosen so judiciously, and painted so strongly, that, the moment they are read, they bring conviction to every thinking mind. That of the scholar must have depressed the too sanguine expectations of many an ambitious student.[2] That of the warrior

[1] From Mr. Langton.

[2] In this poem one of the instances mentioned of unfortunate learned men is *Lydiat*:

"Hear Lydiat's life, and Galileo's end."

The History of Lydiat being little known, the following account of him may be acceptable to many of my readers. It appeared as a note in the Supplement to the Gentleman's Magazine for 1748, in which some passages extracted from Johnson's poem were inserted, and it should have been added in the subsequent editions.—"A very learned divine and mathematician, fellow of New College Oxon, and Rector of Okerton, near Banbury. He wrote among many others, a Latin treatise '*De natura cæli*, &c.' in which he attacked the sentiments of Scaliger and



"The Vanity of Human Wishes"

Charles of Swe
a picture as can
Were all th
annihilated, it m
from its noble c
with the assura
if we "apply ou

"Where then
find?
Shall dull sus
Must helpless
Roll darkling
Shall no disli
No cries atte
Inquirer, ceas
Which Heav
vain.
Still raise for
But leave to
Safe in His h
The secret an
Implore his a
Secure, what

Sermons on the h
successful in publ
of Bocardo at O
Bishop Usher, D
Pink, released hi
King Charles I.
cure MSS. Havi
bishops, he was p
twice carried awa
wards had not a
without he borro

Yet when the sense of sacred presence fires,
And strong devotion to the skies aspires,
Pour forth thy fervours for a healthful mind,
Obedient passions, and a will resign'd;
For love, which scarce collective man can fill;
For patience, sovereign o'er transmuted ill;
For faith, which panting for a happier seat,
Counts death kind Nature's signal for retreat,
These goods for man the laws of Heaven ordain,
These goods he grants, who grants the power to gain;
With these celestial wisdom calms the mind,
And makes the happiness she does not find." [1]

[1] [In this poem, a line in which the danger attending on female beauty is mentioned, has very generally, I believe, been misunderstood:

"Yet Vane could tell what ills from beauty spring,
And Sedley curs'd the form that pleas'd a king."

The lady mentioned in the first of these verses, was not the celebrated Lady Vane, whose memoirs were given to the publick by Dr. Smollett, but Anne Vane, who was mistress to Frederick, Prince of Wales, and died in 1736, not long before Johnson settled in London. Some account of this lady was published, under the title of The Secret History of Vanella, 8vo. 1732. See also Vanella in the Straw, 4to., 1732. In Mr. Boswell's Tour TO THE HEBRIDES (Aug. 17), we find some observations respecting the lines in question:

"In Dr. Johnson's VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES there is the following passage:

"The teeming mother anxious for her race,
Begs for each birth the fortune of a face:
Yet Vane," &c.

"Lord Hailes told him, [Johnson] he was mistaken in the instances he had given of unfortunate fair ones

"Irene" acted at Drury Lane

Garrick being now vested with
by being manager of Drury-lane th
and generously made use of it to bri
tragedy, which had been long kept
of encouragement. But in this be
he met with no small difficulty from
Johnson, which could not brook that
he had formed with much study,
obliged to keep more than the nine y
should be revised and altered at the
actor. Yet Garrick knew well, tha
alterations it would not be fit for
violent dispute having ensued betwee
applied to the Reverend Dr. Tayl
Johnson was at first very obstinate.
the fellow wants me to make Mah
that he may have an opportunity
hands and kicking his heels."[1] He
at last, with difficulty, prevailed on
Garrick's wishes, so as to allow of
but still there were not enough.

Dr. Adams was present the firs
representation of IRENE, and gave m

tion."—His lordship therefore thought
should rather have run thus:

Yet *Shore* could tell ——
And *Valiere* curs'd ——

"Our friend (he added in a subsequen
to Mr. Boswell on this subject) chose
far from being well-look'd, and Sedley,
that Charles II. said—his brother had
penance."—M.]

[1] Mahomet was in fact played by
Demetrius by Mr. Garrick: but proba

account: "Before the curtain drew up, there
catcalls whistling, which alarmed Johnson's fri
The Prologue, which was written by himself
manly strain, soothed the audience,[1] and the
went off tolerably, till it came to the conclu
when Mrs. Pritchard, the Heroine of the p
was to be strangled upon the stage, and w
speak two lines with the bow-string round
neck. The audience cried out '*Murder!* *M*
der!'[2] She several times attempted to sp
but in vain. At last she was obliged to go of
stage alive." This passage was afterwards s
out, and she was carried off to be put to
behind the scenes, as the play now has it.
Epilogue, as Johnson informed me, was w

[1] The expression used by Dr. Adams was "soot
I should rather think the audience was *awed* by the
ordinary spirit and dignity of the following lines:

"Be this at least his praise, be this his pride,
To force applause no modern arts are tried:
Should partial catcalls all his hopes confound,
He bids no trumpet quell the fatal sound;
Should welcome sleep relieve the weary wit,
He rolls no thunders o'er the drowsy pit;
No snares to captivate the judgement spreads,
Nor bribes your eyes, to prejudice your heads.
Unmov'd, though witlings sneer and rivals rai
Studious to please, yet not asham'd to fail,
He scorns the meek address, the suppliant stra
With merit needless, and without it vain;
In Reason, Nature, Truth, he dares to trust;
Ye fops be silent, and ye wits be just!"

[2] [This shews, how ready modern audiences a
condemn in a new play what they have frequent
dured very quietly in an old one. Rowe has
Moneses in TAMERLANE die by the bow-string, wi

"Irene" not successful

by Sir William Yonge. I know not came to be thus graced by the pen of so eminent in the political world.

Notwithstanding all the support formers as Garrick, Barry, Mrs. Cibb chard, and every advantage of dress a the tragedy of Irene did not please Mr. Garrick's zeal carried it thro nights, so that the authour had his profits; and from a receipt signed b the hands of Mr. James Dodsley, i his friend, Mr. Robert Dodsley, g hundred pounds for the copy, with h vation of the right of one edition.

1 [I know not what Sir John Hawkin *cold reception* of IRENE. [See note, p. 175.] first representation, and most of the subse much applauded the first night, particul on *to-morrow*. It ran nine nights at lea indeed become a stock-play, but there w opposition during the representation, e night in the last act, where Irene was t on the stage, which *John* could not bear, matick poet may stab or slay by hundre string was not a Christian nor an an Roman death. But this offence was rem first night, and Irene went off the stage t —Many stories were circulated at the ti thour's being observed at the representa satisfied with some of the speeches and play, himself; and, like la Fontaine, disapprobation aloud.—BURNEY.]

[Mr. Murphy in his Life of Johnson, p. amount of the three benefit nights for IRENE, it is to be feared, were not very c the profit, that stimulating motive, nev authour to another dramatick attempt."

IRENE, considered as a poem, is entitled to
praise of superiour excellence. Analysed into p
it will furnish a rich store of noble sentiments,
imagery, and beautiful language; but it is defic
in pathos, in that delicate power of touching
human feelings, which is the principal end of
drama.[1] Indeed Garrick has complained to

copy of that Life, which I purchased at the sale o
library, has added a manuscript note, containing th
lowing receipts on Johnson's three benefit nights:

"3d night's receipt . . .	£177	1	6
6th	106	4	0
9th	101	11	6
	384	17	0
Charges of the House . .	189	0	0
Profit	195	17	0
He also received for the Copy	100	0	0
In all	295	17	0'

In a preceding page (52) Mr. Murphy says, "
was acted at Drury-lane on Monday, Feb. 6, and
that time, without interruption, to Monday, Febr
the 20th, being in all thirteen nights."

On this Mr. Reed somewhat indignantly has writt
"This is false. It was acted only nine nights, and
repeated afterwards. Mr. Murphy, in making the a
calculation, includes both the Sundays and Lent-day

The blunder, however, is that of the Monthly Revi
from whom Murphy took, without acknowledgmen
greater part of his Essay. M. R. vol. lxxvii. p. 1
A. CHALMERS.]

[1] Aaron Hill (Vol. II. p. 355,) in a letter to Mr. M
gives the following account of Irene after having see
"I was at the anomalous Mr. Johnson's benefit,
found the play his proper representative: strong

His dress at the theatre

that Johnson not only had not the
ducing the impressions of tragedy, b
not the sensibility to perceive the
friend Mr. Walmsley's prediction,
"turn out a fine tragedy writer,"
ill-founded. Johnson was wise enou
vinced that he had not the talents nec
successfully for the stage, and never
attempt in that species of composition

When asked how he felt upon the
his tragedy, he replied, "Like the
meaning that he continued firm and u
column. And let it be remembered,
tion to the *genus irritabile* of dramatic
this great man, instead of peevishly
the bad taste of the town, submitted
without a murmur. He had, indeed,
sions a great deference for the general
man (said he) who writes a book,
wiser or wittier than the rest of man
poses that he can instruct or amuse
publick to whom he appeals, must, a
judges of his pretensions."

On occasion of this play being bro
stage, Johnson had a fancy that as
authour his dress should be more gay
ordinarily wore; he therefore appear
scenes, and even in one of the side box
waistcoat, with rich gold lace, and a g
He humourously observed to Mr. L
when in that dress he could not trea
the same ease as when in his usual p
Dress indeed, we must allow, has mo
upon strong minds than one should sus

having had the experience of it. His necessary attendance while his play was in rehearsal, and during its performance, brought him acquainted with many of the performers of both sexes, which produced a more favourable opinion of their profession than he had harshly expressed in his Life of Savage. With some of them he kept up an acquaintance as long as he and they lived, and was ever ready to shew them acts of kindness. He for a considerable time used to frequent the *Green Room*, and seemed to take delight in dissipating his gloom, by mixing in the sprightly chit-chat of the motley circle then to be found there. Mr. David Hume related to me from Mr. Garrick, that Johnson at last denied himself this amusement, from considerations of rigid virtue; saying, "I'll come no more behind your scenes, David; for the silk stockings and white bosoms of your actresses excite my amorous propensities."

In 1750 he came forth in the character for which he was eminently qualified, a majestic teacher of moral and religious wisdom. The vehicle which he chose was that of a periodical paper, which he knew had been, upon former occasions, employed with great success. The Tatler, Spectator, and Guardian, were the last of the kind published in England, which had stood the test of a long trial; and such an interval had now elapsed since their publication, as made him justly think that, to many of his readers, this form of instruction would, in some degree, have the advantage of novelty. A few days before the first of his Essays came out, there started another competitor for fame

"The Rambler" Revived," which I believe was "
Johnson was, I think, not very h
of his title,—"The Rambler;"
not suited to a series of grave and
which the Italians have literally
translated by *Il Vagabondo;* and
lately assumed as the denominati
licentious tales, "The Rambler's
gave Sir Joshua Reynolds the fol
its getting this name: "What *n*
will be done. When I was to
that paper, I was at a loss how t
down at night upon my bedside,
I would not go to sleep till I h
The Rambler seemed the best tha
took it." [1]

With what devout and consci
this paper was undertaken, is evid
lowing prayer, which he composed
the occasion: "Almighty God, th
things, without whose help all lab
and without whose grace all wisdo
I beseech Thee, that in this unde

[1] I have heard Dr. Warton menti
Mr. Robert Dodsley's with the lat
several of his friends, considering v
name of the periodical paper which
taken. Garrick proposed the *Sallad,*
coincidence, was afterwards applied t
smith:

"Our Garrick's a sallad, for in
Oil, vinegar, sugar, and saltn

At last, the company having sepa
thing of which they approved hav
Dodsley himself thought of *The World*

Spirit may not be with-held from me, but that
may promote thy glory, and the salvation of mys
and others: grant this, O Lord, for the sake
thy son, JESUS CHRIST. Amen."[1]

The first paper of the Rambler was publish
on Tuesday the 20th of March, 1749–50; and
authour was enabled to continue it, without int
ruption, every Tuesday and Saturday, till Satur
the 17th of March,[2] 1752, on which day it clos
This is a strong confirmation of the truth o
remark of his, which I have had occasion to qu
elsewhere,[3] that "a man may write at any time
he will set himself doggedly to it;" for, notwi
standing his constitutional indolence, his depress
of spirits, and his labour in carrying on his Dicti
ary, he answered the stated calls of the press tw
a week from the stores of his mind, during all
time; having received no assistance, except
billets in No. 10, by Miss Mulso, now Mrs. C
pone; No. 30, by Mrs. Catharine Talbot; No.
by Mr. Samuel Richardson, whom he describes i
introductory note as "An authour who has enlar
the knowledge of human nature, and taught
passions to move at the command of virtue;"
Numbers 44 and 100, by Mrs. Elizabeth Carte

[1] Prayers and Meditations, p. 9.

[2] [This is a mistake, into which the authour was
pardonably led by the inaccuracy of the original
edition of the Rambler, in which the concluding p
of that work is dated on "Saturday, March 17."
Saturday was in fact the *fourteenth* of March. This
cumstance, though it may at first appear of very
importance, is yet worth notice; for Mrs. Johnson
on the *seventeenth* of March.—M.]

How to gain ease and accuracy

Posterity will be astonished whe upon the authority of Johnson hir of these discourses, which we sho been laboured with all the slow atte leisure, were written in haste as the without even being read over by were printed. It can be accounted way; that by reading and medita close inspection of life, he had acc fund of miscellaneous knowledge, w liar promptitude of mind, was ever and which he had constantly accust clothe in the most apt and energe Sir Joshua Reynolds once asked means he had attained his extraor and flow of language. He told h early laid it down as a fixed rule t every occasion, and in every comp whatever he knew in the most forc could put it in; and that by consta never suffering any careless expre him, or attempting to deliver his t arranging them in the clearest ma habitual to him.[1]

Yet he was not altogether unpre odical writer; for I have in my p duodecimo volume, in which he ha form of Mr. Locke's Common-

[1] [The rule which Dr. Johnson obse by the authority of two great writers o id quidem tacendum est, quod eidem nullum nostrum usquam negligentem *quicquid loquemur, ubicunque, sit pro sua fectum.*" Quinctil. x. 7.—M.]

variety of hints for essays on different subje
He has marked upon the first blank leaf of it, "
the 128th page, collections for the RAMBLER
and in another place, "In fifty-two there w
seventeen provided; in 97—21; in 190—2
At a subsequent period (probably after the w
was finished) he added, "In all, taken of provi
materials, 30."

Sir John Hawkins, who is unlucky upon
occasions, tells us, that "this method of accu
lating intelligence had been practised by Mr. Ad
son, and is humourously described in one of
Spectators, wherein he feigns to have dropped
paper of *notanda*, consisting of a diverting me
of broken sentences and loose hints, which he t
us he had collected, and meant to make use
Much of the same kind is Johnson's Adversaria.
But the truth is, that there is no resemblance at
between them. Addison's note was a fiction,
which unconnected fragments of his lucubrati
were purposely jumbled together, in as od
manner as he could, in order to produce a lau
able effect. Whereas Johnson's abbreviations
all distinct, and applicable to each subject of wh
the head is mentioned.

For instance, there is the following specimen

Youth's Entry, &c.

"Baxter's account of things in which he
changed his mind as he grew up. Voluminous
No wonder.—If every man was to tell, or m
on how many subjects he has changed, it w

Youth's sun-gilt prospect

make vols. but the changes not alwa
man's self.—From pleasure to bus.
quiet; from thoughtfulness to refl
from dissipation to domestic. by imp
but the change is certain. Dial. *non*
gress. esse conspicimus. Look back,
was thought at some dist. period.

"*Hope predom. in youth. Mind n*
dulges unpleasing thoughts. The wo
amelled before him, as a distant pros
—inequalities only found by coming t
to be all joy—children excellent—Fa
stant—caresses of the great—applause
—smiles of Beauty.

"*Fear of disgrace—Bashfulness*—
less importance. Miscarriages forg
lencies;—if remembered, of no imp
of sinking into negligence of reputat
fear of disgrace destroy activity.

"*Confidence in himself.* Long trac
him.—No thought of sickness.—Em
affairs.—Distraction of family. Publ
—No sense of the prevalence of bad h
gent of time—ready to undertake—ca
—all changed by time.

"*Confident of others*—unsuspecting
enced—imagining himself secure ag
never imagines they will venture to
Ready to trust; expecting to be trusted
by time of the selfishness, the meanne
dice, the treachery of men.

[1] This most beautiful image of the en
sion of youthful prospect has not been

"Youth ambitious, as thinking honours easy t
be had.

"Different kinds of praise pursued at differer
periods. Of the gay in youth.—dang. hurt, &c
despised.

"Of the fancy in manhood. Ambit.—stocks—
bargains.—Of the wise and sober in old age—seri
ousness—formality—maxims, but general—only
the rich, otherwise age is happy—but at last ever
thing referred to riches—no having fame, honou
influence, without subjection to caprice.

"Horace.

"Hard it would be if men entered life with th
same views with which they leave it, or left as the
enter it.—No hope—no undertaking—no regard
benevolence—no fear of disgrace, &c.

"Youth to be taught the piety of age—age
retain the honour of youth."

This, it will be observed, is the sketch of Num
ber 196 of the Rambler. I shall gratify my reade
with another specimen:

"*Confederacies difficult; why.*

"Seldom in war a match for single persons—n
in peace; therefore kings make themselves absolut
Confederacies in learning—every great work th
work of one. *Bruy.* Scholars' friendship like ladie
Scribebamus, &c. Mart.[1] The apple of discord—
the laurel of discord—the poverty of criticism
Swift's opinion of the power of six geniuses unite
That union scarce possible. His remarks just;—

[1] [Lib. XII. 96. "In Tuccam æmulum omnium suoru

Confederacies difficult

man a social, not steady nature.
words, repelled by passions. C
tion, rep. [*repelled*] by centrifu

"Common danger unites by
sions—but they return. Equ
pliance. Superiority produces
Too much regard in each to p
little.

"The mischiefs of private an
—The fitness of social attracti
the whole. The mischiefs of t
country. Contraction of moral
ου φιλος.

"Every man moves upon h
therefore repels others from t
though he may comply with so

"Of confederacy with superi
the inconvenience. With equa
every man his own opinion—hi

"Man and wife hardly united
out children. Computation, if
two, how many against five? I
easy—useless;—many oppresses
only to some, dangerous. *Prin*

Here we see the embryo of
Adventurer; and it is a confi
shall presently have occasion t
papers in that collection mark
by Johnson.

This scanty preparation of
however, much diminish our w
ordinary fertility of his mind;
which they bear to the number

wrote, is very small; and it is remarkable, tha those for which he had made no preparation, are a rich and as highly finished, as those for which th hints were lying by him. It is also to be observed that the papers formed from his hints are worke up with such strength and elegance, that we almo lose sight of the hints, which become like "drop in the bucket." Indeed, in several instances, h has made a very slender use of them, so that man of them remain still unapplied.[1]

As the Rambler was entirely the work of on man, there was, of course, such a uniformity in i texture, as very much to exclude the charm variety; and the grave and often solemn cast thinking, which distinguished it from other perio dical papers, made it, for some time, not general liked. So slowly did this excellent work, of whic twelve editions have now issued from the pres gain upon the world at large, that even in th

[1] Sir John Hawkins has selected from this little colle tion of materials, what he calls the "Rudiments of tw of the papers of the Rambler." But he has not been ab to read the manuscript distinctly. Thus he writes, 266, "Sailor's fate any mansion;" whereas the origin is "Sailor's life my aversion." He has also transcrib the unappropriated hints on *Writers for bread*, in whi he decyphers these notable passages, one in Latin, *fa non famæ*, instead of *fami non famæ*; Johnson having in h mind what Thuanus says of the learned German an quary and linguist, Xylander, who, he tells us, lived such poverty, that he was supposed *fami non famæ scriber* and another in French, *Degenté de fate et affamé d'arge* instead of *Degouté de fame* (an old word for *renommé*) *affamé d'argent*. The manuscript being written in an e ceedingly small hand, is indeed very hard to read; but would have been better to have left blanks than to wri

The Rambler praised

closing number the authour say
been much a favourite of the pub
Yet, very soon after its com
were who felt and acknowledg
excellence. Verses in its prais
newspapers; and the editor of
Magazine mentions, in October,
several letters to the same purpose
"The Student, or Oxford and C
lany," in which Mr. Bonnell T
Colman were the principal write
"a work that exceeds any thing
published in this kingdom, some
excepted,—if indeed they may be
afterwards, "May the publick
merits, and may not the English

[1] [The Ramblers certainly were li
Smart, the poet, first mentioned ther
papers, before I had heard any one
When I went into Norfolk, in the
found but one person, (the Rev. Mr
learning, and a general purchaser o
knew any thing of them. But he ha
concerning the true authour, for he
were written by a Mr. Johnson of Ca
a clergyman who had had a controv
and who had changed the readings of
titled *Norton Falgate*, in Bentley's bol
till not a single word of the origi
Before I left Norfolk in the year
were in high favour among persons o
taste. Others there were, devoid of
the *hard words* in the Rambler were u
to render his Dictionary indispen
BURNEY.]

[It may not be improper to correc

cious reign of GEORGE the Second, neglect a m
who, had he lived in the first century, would h
been one of the greatest favourites of Augustu
This flattery of the monarch had no effect. I
too well known, that the second George never
an Augustus to learning or genius.

Johnson told me, with an amiable fondness
little pleasing circumstance relative to this wo
Mrs. Johnson, in whose judgement and taste
had great confidence, said to him, after a few nu
bers of the Rambler had come out, "I thou
very well of you before; but I did not imag
you could have written any thing equal to thi
Distant praise, from whatever quarter, is not
delightful as that of a wife whom a man loves
esteems. Her approbation may be said to "co
home to his *bosom*;" and being so near, its ef
is most sensible and permanent.

Mr. James Elphinston, who has since publis

principal object of Dr. Burney's remark. The clergy
above alluded to, was Mr. Richard Johnson, Sch
master at Nottingham, who in 1717 published an oct
volume in Latin, against Bentley's edition of Hor
entitled ARISTARCHUS ANTI-BENTLEIANUS. In the mi
of this Latin work (as Mr. Bindley observes to me,
has introduced four pages of English criticism, in wh
he ludicrously corrects, in Bentley's manner, one sta
not of the ballad the hero of which lived in Nor
Falgate, but of a ballad celebrating the achievement
TOM BOSTOCK; who in a sea-fight performed prodi
of valour. The stanza, on which this ingenious wr
has exercised his wit, is as follows:

"Then old Tom Bostock he fell to the work,
He pray'd like a Christian, but fought like a Tu
And cut 'em off all in a jerk.

Mr. Elphinston's zeal

various works, and who was e
Johnson as a worthy man, happen
land while the Rambler was con
papers at London. With a laud
for the improvement of his cou
reputation of his friend, he sug
the charge of an edition of those
burgh, which followed progressi
publication.[1]

The following letter written at
not dated, will show how much
was with this publication, and w
regard he had for Mr. Elphinston

"To Mr. James Elph

"DEAR SIR,

"I CANNOT but confess th
correspondence, but hope the sa
you express for me on every oth
incline you to forgive me. I am
ill; and, when I am well, am c

[1] It was executed in the printin
Murray, and Cochran, with uncomm
writing paper, of a duodecimo size, an
correctness: and Mr. Elphinston enri
lations of the mottos. When comple
handsome volumes. It is, unquesti
accurate and beautiful edition of this
being but a small impression, it is n
and sells at a very high price.

[With respect to the correctness o
authour probably derived his inform
other person, and appears to have b
for it was *set* accurately printed, as w

and, indeed, have never much used myself to punctuality. You are, however, not to make unkind inferences, when I forbear to reply to your kindness; for be assured, I never receive a letter from you without great pleasure, and a very warm sense of your generosity and friendship, which I heartily blame myself for not cultivating with more care. In this, as in many other cases, I go wrong, in opposition to conviction; for I think scarce any temporal good equally to be desired with the regard and familiarity of worthy men. I hope we shall be some time nearer to each other, and have a more ready way of pouring out our hearts.

"I am glad that you still find encouragement to proceed in your publication, and shall beg the favour of six more volumes to add to my former six, when you can, with any convenience, send them me. Please to present a set, in my name, to Mr. Ruddiman,[1] of whom, I hear, that his learning is not his highest excellence. I have transcribed the mottos, and returned them, I hope not too late, of which I think many very happily performed. Mr. Cave has put the last in the magazine,[2] in which I think he did well. I beg of you to write soon, and to

[1] Mr. Thomas Ruddiman, the learned grammarian of Scotland, well known for his various excellent works, and for his accurate editions of several authours. He was also a man of a most worthy private character. His zeal for the Royal House of Stuart did not render him less estimable in Dr. Johnson's eye.

[2] [If the Magazine here referred to be that for October 1752, (See GENT. MAG. vol. 22, p. 468,) then this letter belongs to a later period. If it relates to the Magazine for Sept. 1750, (See GENT. MAG. vol. 20, p. 406,) then it may be ascribed to the month of October in that year,

A letter of sympathy

write often, and to write long le
in time to repay you; but you
creditor. I have, however, thi
I think of you with regard, whe
give the proofs which I ought, o

"Your most obli

"Most hu

This year he wrote to the sa
other letter upon a mournful occ

"To Mr. James El

"DEAR SIR, Se

"You have, as I find by
dence, lost an excellent mother
will not think me incapable of
grief. I have a mother, now e
age, whom, therefore, I must s
please God that she should rat
I read the letters in which you r
death to Mrs. Strahan, and t
honour, when I tell you that
tears; but tears are neither to *yo*
farther use, when once the trib
been paid. The business of life
from useless grief, and calls us
those virtues of which we are
privation. The greatest benefit
can confer upon another, is to
and elevate, his virtues. This

of her life, and of her death: a life, so
can learn, useful, wise, and innocent; and
resigned, peaceful, and holy. I cannot fo
mention, that neither reason nor revelatio
you to hope, that you may increase her h
by obeying her precepts; and that she ma
present state, look with pleasure upon eve
virtue to which her instructions or exam
contributed. Whether this be more than
ing dream, or a just opinion of separate s
indeed, of no great importance to us, when
sider ourselves as acting under the eye
yet, surely, there is something pleasing in th
that our separation from those whom we
merely corporeal; and it may be a great in
to virtuous friendship, if it can be made
that that union that has received the divin
bation shall continue to eternity.

"There is one expedient by which you
some degree, continue her presence. If
down minutely what you remember of
your earliest years, you will read it w
pleasure, and receive from it many hints
ing recollection, when time shall remove
farther from you, and your grief shall be
to veneration. To this, however painfu
present, I cannot but advise you, as to a
comfort and satisfaction in the time to c
all comfort and all satisfaction is sincere
you by, dear Sir,

"Your most obliged, most obedien

"And most humble se

"Sam. J

A true representation of life

The Rambler has increased in f
Soon after its first folio edition w
was published in six duodecimo vol
authour lived to see ten numerous
London, beside those of Ireland an

I profess myself to have ever en
found veneration for the astonish
vivacity of mind, which the Ra
That Johnson had penetration eno
seeing would not disguise the ge
man in this state of being, may ha
the superficial notion of his being to
sopher. But men of reflection will
he has given a true representation o
ence, and that he has, at the sam
generous benevolence displayed ev
which our state affords us; not on
from the hopes of futurity, but su
attained in the immediate progres
He has not depressed the soul to d

[1] [This is not quite accurate. In the
Nov. 1751, while the work was yet p
advertisement, announcing that *four*
Rambler would speedily be published;
that they were published in the next m
and sixth volumes, with tables of conte
tions of the mottos, were published i
Payne, (the original publisher,) three
close of the work.

When the Rambler was collected into
son revised and corrected it throughou
was not aware of this circumstance, v
been discovered and accurately stated b
Chalmers in a new edition of these ar
periodical Essays, under the title of "
sayists."—M.]

indifference. He has every where inculcated study labour, and exertion. Nay, he has shewn, in very odious light, a man whose practice is to go about darkening the views of others, by perpetual complaints of evil, and awakening those considerations of danger and distress, which are, for the most part, lulled into a quiet oblivion. This he has done very strongly in his character of Suspirius, from which Goldsmith took that of Croaker, in his comedy of "The Good-natured Man," as Johnson told me he acknowledged to him, and which is indeed, very obvious.

To point out the numerous subjects which the Rambler treats, with a dignity and perspicuity which are there united in a manner which we shall in vain look for anywhere else, would take up too large a portion of my book, and would, I trust, be superfluous, considering how universally those volumes are now disseminated. Even the most condensed and brilliant sentences which they contain and which have very properly been selected under the name of "BEAUTIES,"[2] are of considerable bulk. But I may shortly observe, that the Rambler furnishes such an assemblage of discourses on practical religion and moral duty, of critical investi-

[1] No. 55.

[2] Dr. Johnson was gratified by seeing this selection and wrote to Mr. Kearsley, bookseller in Fleet-street the following note:

"Mr. Johnson sends compliments to Mr. Kearsley and begs the favour of seeing him as soon as he can. Mr. Kearsley is desired to bring with him the last edition of what he has honoured with the name of BEAUTIES.

"Bark and steel for the mind"

gations, and allegorical and orient
mind can be thought very deficie
constant study and meditation, assi
all that may be found there. N
Passion-week on abstraction and s
and No. 110, on penitence and t
the Divine Nature, cannot be too o
54, on the effect which the death o
have upon us, though rather too dis
occasionally very medicinal to the
one must suppose the writer to ha
impressed by a real scene; but he t
not the case; which shews how
could conduct him to the "house
Some of these more solemn paper
particularly attracted the notice of
authour of "The Night Thoughts,
estimation is such, as to reckon
honour even to Johnson. I have
Dr. Young's copy of the Ramble
has marked the passages which he t
larly excellent, by folding down a
page; and such as he rated in a
degree are marked by double folds.
some of the volumes are lost. John
when told of the minute attentio
Young had signified his approbation

I will venture to say, that in no
ever can be found more *bark and ste*
if I may use the expression; more
and invigorate every manly and n
No. 32 on patience, even under ext
wonderfully lofty, and as much abo
stoicism, as the Sun of Revelation

the twilight of Pagan philosophy. I never rea the following sentence without feeling my fram thrill: "I think there is some reason for questionin whether the body and mind are not so proportioned that the one can bear all which can be inflicted o the other; whether virtue cannot stand its groun as long as life, and whether a soul well principle will not be sooner separated than subdued."

Though instruction be the predominant purpo of the Rambler, yet it is enlivened with a conside able portion of amusement. Nothing can be mo erroneous than the notion which some persons ha entertained, that Johnson was then a retired author ignorant of the world; and, of consequence, th he wrote only from his imagination, when he d scribed characters and manners. He said to m that before he wrote that work, he had been "ru ning about the world," as he expressed it, mo than almost any body; and I have heard him rela with much satisfaction, that several of the characte in the Rambler were drawn so naturally, that wh it first circulated in numbers, a club in one of t towns in Essex imagined themselves to be severa exhibited in it, and were much incensed against person who, they suspected, had thus made the objects of publick notice; nor were they quiet till authentick assurance was given them, that t Rambler was written by a person who had nev heard of any one of them. Some of the characte are believed to have been actually drawn from t life, particularly that of Prospero from Garric

[1] [That of Gelidus in No. 24, from Professor Cols (see p. 81 of this vol.) and that of Euphues in the sa

Characters drawn from life

who never entirely forgave its
instances of fertility of fancy,
tion of real life, I appeal to
wanders from one profession t
plausible reasons for every cha
fastidiousness and timorous re
Virtuoso who has collected
petty modes of entertaining a
ciliating kindness: No. 182, f
194–195, a tutor's account
pupil: No. 197–198, legacy
given a specimen of his nice
mere external appearances of
passage in No. 179, against affe
and most disgusting quality:
contemplate the crowds that
populous city, will see many p
and motions it will be difficul
contempt and laughter; but i
are the appearances that thus p
risibility, he will find among th
nor disease, nor any involuntar
The disposition to derision and
by the softness of foppery, the
the liveliness of levity, or the sol
by the sprightly trip, the statel
strut, and the lofty mien; by g

from the life. EUPHUES, I once t
been intended to represent either
Soame Jenyns: but Mr. Bindley, w
thinks, that George Bubb Dodingto
able for the homeliness of his pers
his dress, was the person meant u
—M.]

catch the eye, and by looks elaborately formed evidences of importance."

Every page of the Rambler shews a mind tee ing with classical allusion and poetical image illustrations from other writers are, upon all oc sions, so ready, and mingle so easily in his perio that the whole appears of one uniform vivid te ture.

The style of this work has been censured some shallow criticks as involved and turgid, abounding with antiquated and hard words. ill-founded is the first part of this objection, tha will challenge all who may honour this book w a perusal, to point out any English writer wh language conveys his meaning with equal force perspicuity. It must, indeed, be allowed, that structure of his sentences is expanded, and often somewhat of the inversion of Latin; and that delighted to express familiar thoughts in philosop cal language; being in this the reverse of Socra who, it is said, reduced philosophy to the simpli of common life. But let us attend to what he hi self says in his concluding paper: "When comm words were less pleasing to the ear, or less disti in their signification, I have familiarised the te of philosophy, by applying them to popular ideas And, as to the second part of this objection, u a late careful revision of the work, I can with c fidence say, that it is amazing how few of th words, for which it has been unjustly characteri are actually to be found in it; I am sure, not

[1] Yet his style did not escape the harmless shaft pleasant humour; for the ingenious Bonnell Thorn

Johnson's "hard words"

proportion of one to each paper.
has been echoed from one babbler
have confounded Johnson's Essay
Dictionary; and because he thou
Lexicon of our language to col
which had fallen into disuse, but
great authorities, it has been ima
these have been interwoven into h
tions. That some of them have
him unnecessarily, may, perhaps,
in general they are evidently a
without them his stately ideas w
and cramped. "He that thinks
than another, will want words of l
He once told me, that he had form
that of Sir William Temple, and
Proposal for his Dictionary.[2] I
mistaken; or if he imagined at
imitating Temple, he was very u

[1] Idler, No. 70.

[2] [The Paper here alluded to, wa
bers's Proposal for a second and impr
Dictionary, which, I think, appeared i
posal was probably in circulation in r
first came to London.—M.]

[3] [The authour appears to me to h
Johnson in this instance. He did no
to say, that, when he first began to
William Temple his model, with a vi
that should resemble his in all its p
formed his style on that of Temple a
ing from each those characteristic
were most worthy of imitation.—See
explained in vol. iv. under April 9,
conversation at Sir Joshua Reynolds'
mentions the particular improvemer

nothing can be more unlike than the simplic
Temple, and the richness of Johnson. Their
differ as plain cloth and brocade. Temple, i
seems equally erroneous in supposing that he
self had formed his style upon Sandys's V
the State of Religion in the Western parts
World.

The style of Johnson was, undoubtedly,
formed upon that of the great writers in th
century, Hooker, Bacon, Sanderson, Hakewe
others; those "GIANTS," as they were well c
terised by A GREAT PERSONAGE, whose autl
were I to name him, would stamp a reverer
the opinion.

We may, with the utmost propriety, apply
learned style that passage of Horace, a part of
he has taken as the motto to his Dictionary:

"*Cum tabulis animum censoris sumet honesti;*
Audebit quæcumque parùm splendoris habebun
Et sine pondere erunt, et honore indigna feren
Verba movere loco, quamvis invita recedant,
Et versentur adhuc intra penetralia Vestæ.
Obscurata diu populo bonus eruet, atque
Proferet in lucem speciosa vocabula rerum,
Quæ priscis memorata Catonibus atque Cethe
Nunc situs informis premit et deserta vetusta
Adsciscet nova, quæ genitor produxerit usus:
Vehemens, et liquidus, puroque simillimus am
Fundet opes Latiumque beabit divite linguâ."

made in the English style. These, doubtless, we
objects of his imitation, so far as that writer w
model.—M.]

Sir Thomas Browne

To so great a master of thinkin
vast and various knowledge as Joh
been allowed a liberal indulgence
which Horace claims in another p

"—— *Si forté necesse es*
Indiciis monstrare recentibus abdi
Fingere cinctutis non exaudita Ce
Continget, dabiturque licentia sum
Et nova fictaque nuper habebunt
Græco fonte cadant, parce detorta
Cæcilio Plautoque dabit Romanus
Virgilio Varioque? Ego cur, a
Si possum, invideor; cum lingua
Sermonem patrium ditaverit, et n
Nomina protulerit? Licuit, sem
Signatum præsente notâ producere

Yet Johnson assured me, that
upon him to add more than four
the English language, of his own
he was very much offended at th
by no means "modestly taken"
only to coin new words, but to us
senses quite different from their e
ing, and those frequently very fanta

Sir Thomas Brown, whose Lif
was remarkably fond of Anglo-La
to his example we are to ascribe
times indulging himself in this kind

[1] Horat. De Arte Poetica.

[2] The observation of his having im
Brown has been made by many people

Johnson's comprehension of mind was the mou
for his language. Had his conceptions been na
rower, his expression would have been easier. H
sentences have a dignified march; and, it is certa
that his example has given a general elevation
the language of his country, for many of our b
writers have approached very near to him; an
from the influence which he has had upon our co
position, scarcely any thing is written now that is n
better expressed than was usual before he appear
to lead the national taste.

This circumstance, the truth of which mu
strike every critical reader, has been so happ
enforced by Mr. Courtenay, in his "Moral a
Literary Character of Dr. Johnson," that I cann
prevail on myself to withhold it, notwithstandi
his, perhaps, too great partiality for one of h
friends:

"By nature's gifts ordain'd mankind to rule,
He, like a Titian, form'd his brilliant school;
And taught congenial spirits to excel,
While from his lips impressive wisdom fell.
Our boasted GOLDSMITH felt the sovereign swa
From him deriv'd the sweet, yet nervous lay.
To Fame's proud cliff he bade our Raffaelle ris
Hence REYNOLDS' pen with REYNOLDS' pencil vi
With Johnson's flame melodious BURNEY glov
While the grand strain in smoother cadence flov

tions from Brown, in one of the popular Essays writt
by the Reverend Mr. Knox, master of Tunbridge-scho
whom I have set down in my list of those who ha
sometimes not unsuccessfully imitated Dr. Johnso

Mr. Courtenay quoted

And you, MALONE, to critick
Correct and elegant, refin'd th
By studying him, acquir'd tha
Which high in Shakspeare'
plac'd.
Near Johnson STEEVENS stands,
Acute, laborious, fertile, and p
Ingenious HAWKESWORTH to th
And scarce the pupil from the
Here early parts accomplish'd
And science blends with Asia'
Harmonious JONES! who in h
Sings Camdeo's sports, on Agr
In Hindu fictions while we for
Love and the Muses, deck'd v
Amid these names can BOSWE
Scarce by North Britons now
Who to the sage devoted from
Imbib'd from him the sacred l
The keen research, the exercis
And that best art, the art to k

[1] The following observation in M
of a Tour to the Hebrides may sufficien
Gentleman's being "now scarcely es
many of his countrymen: "If he
particularly prejudiced against the S
they were more in his way; becaus
success in England rather exceeded
of their real merit; and because he c
them that nationality which, I believe
Scotchman will deny." Mr. Boswel
from national prejudices, that he mig
priety have been described as—

"Scarce by *South* Britons now est

Nor was his energy confin'd alone
To friends around his philosophick throne;
Its influence wide improv'd our letter'd isle,
And lucid vigour mark'd the general style:
As Nile's proud waves, swoln from their oozy bed
First o'er the neighbouring meads majestic
spread;
Till gathering force, they more and more expand
And with new virtue fertilise the land."

Johnson's language, however, must be allowed to be too masculine for the delicate gentleness of female writing. His ladies, therefore, seem strained formal, even to ridicule; and are well denominated by the names which he has given them, as Misella Zozima, Properantia, Rhodoclia.

It has of late been the fashion to compare the style of Addison and Johnson, and to depreciate, I think, very unjustly, the style of Addison as nerveless and feeble, because it has not the strength and energy of that of Johnson. Their prose may be balanced like the poetry of Dryden and Pope. Both are excellent, though in different ways. Addison writes with the ease of a gentleman. His readers fancy that a wise and accomplished companion is talking to them; so that he insinuates his sentiments and taste into their minds by an imperceptible influence. Johnson writes like a teacher. He dictates to his readers as if from an academick chair. They attend with awe and admiration, and his precepts are impressed upon them by his commanding eloquence. Addison's style, like light wine, pleases everybody from the first. John-

Addison's style

at first, but, by degrees, is hig
such is the melody of his periods
captivate the ear, and seize upon
there is scarcely any writer, ho
able, who does not aim, in son
same species of excellence. B
gratefully undervalue that beautifu
pleasingly conveyed to us muc
entertainment. Though compar
posed to Johnson's Herculean
call it positively feeble. Let
character of his style, as given by
"What he attempted, he perfor
feeble, and he did not wish to be
never rapid, and he never stagnate
have neither studied amplitude, no
his periods, though not diligen
voluble and easy.[1] Whoever w

[1] [When Johnson shewed me a
character of Addison, in which he s
style, I could not help observing, th
his own model, as no two styles cou
each other.—"Sir, Addison had his
mine."—When I ventured to ask
difference did not consist in this, t
was full of idioms, colloquial phra
and his own more strictly grammat
such phraseology and modes of spee
literally translated or understood
allowed the discrimination to be just.
doubts it, try to translate one of A
into Latin, French, or Italian; an
familiar, and elegant, to an Englishm
intellect no trouble; yet he would fi
into another language extremely diffi
sible. But a Rambler, Adventurer, o
would fall into any classical or Eur

English style, familiar but not coarse, and elegant but not ostentatious, must give his days and nights to the volumes of Addison."[1]

Though the Rambler was not concluded till the year 1752, I shall, under this year, say all that I have to observe upon it. Some of the translations of the mottos by himself, are admirably done. He acknowledges to have received "elegant translations" of many of them from Mr. James Elphinston; and some are very happily translated by a Mr. *F. Lewis*, of whom I never heard more, except that Johnson thus described him to Mr. Malone: "Sir, he lived in London, and hung loose upon society."[2] The concluding paper of his Rambler is at once dignified and pathetick. I cannot, however, but wish, that he had not ended it with an unnecessary Greek verse, translated[3] also into an English couplet.

easily as if it had been originally conceived in it. —BURNEY.]

[1] I shall probably, in another work, maintain the merit of Addison's poetry, which has been very unjustly depreciated.

[2] [In the Gentleman's Magazine, for October 1752, p. 468, he is styled "the Rev. Francis Lewis, of Chiswick." The late Lord Macartney, while he resided at Chiswick, at my request, made some inquiry concerning him at that place, but no intelligence was obtained.

The translations of the mottos supplied by Mr. Elphinston, appeared first in the Edinburgh edition of the Rambler, and in some instances were revised and improved, probably by Johnson, before they were inserted in the London octavo edition. The translations of the mottos affixed to the first thirty numbers of the Rambler, were published, from the Edinburgh edition, in the Gentleman's Magazine for September 1750, before the work was collected into volumes.—M.]

Sir Walter Raleigh

It is too much like the conceit of t
poets, who used to conclude each act
and the expression in the first line
"*Celestial powers*," though proper in
is ill suited to Christianity, with "
to which he consoles himself. Ho
would it have been, to have ended
sentence "I shall never envy the hon
and learning obtain in any other cau
numbered among the writers who hav
to virtue, and confidence to truth."

His friend, Dr. Birch, being n
preparing an edition of Ralegh's
Dr. Johnson wrote the following
gentleman:

"To Dr. Birch.

"SIR, Gough-square, M

"KNOWING that you are nov
favour the publick with a new editi
miscellaneous pieces, I have taken
send you a Manuscript, which fell by
my notice. I perceive no proofs of
examination of it; and the owner te
he has heard, the hand-writing is Sir
you should find reason to conclude
will be a kindness to the owner, a bl
recommend it to the booksellers. I

"Your most humble

"SA

[1] Mrs. Williams is probably the per

His just abhorrence of Milton's political notio
was ever strong. But this did not prevent his war
admiration of Milton's great poetical merit, to whi
he has done illustrious justice, beyond all who ha
written upon the subject. And this year he n
only wrote a Prologue, which was spoken by M
Garrick before the acting of Comus at Drury-la
theatre, for the benefit of Milton's grand-daught
but took a very zealous interest in the success of t
charity. On the day preceding the performanc
he published the following letter in the "Gene
Advertiser," addressed to the printer of that pape

"SIR,

"THAT a certain degree of reputation is a
quired merely by approving the works of geni
and testifying a regard to the memory of authou
is a truth too evident to be denied; and therefo
to ensure a participation of fame with a celebrat
poet, many, who would, perhaps, have contribut
to starve him when alive, have heaped expensi
pageants upon his grave.[1]

"It must, indeed, be confessed, that this meth
of becoming known to posterity with honour,
peculiar to the great, or at least to the wealthy; b
an opportunity now offers for almost every individ
to secure the praise of paying a just regard to the illu
trious dead, united with the pleasure of doing good
the living. To assist industrious indigence, struggli
with distress and debilitated by age, is a display
virtue, and an acquisition of happiness and honour

"Whoever, then, would be thought capable

[1] [Alluding probably to Mr. Auditor Benson. See

Performance of "Comus"

pleasure in reading the works o
Milton, and not so destitute of g
to lay out a trifle in rational an
ment, for the benefit of his livi
exercise of their own virtue, t
reputation, and the pleasing con
good, should appear at Drury-l
row, April 5, when Comus will b
benefit of Mrs. Elizabeth Foster
the authour,[1] and the only survi
family.

"N. B. There will be a ne
occasion, written by the auth
spoken by Mr. Garrick; and, b
there will be added to the Masqu
called Lethe, in which Mr. Ga

In 1751 we are to consider J
both his Dictionary and Ramb
wrote "The Life of Cheynel,"
called "The Student;" and
Douglas having with uncommo
detected a gross forgery and i
publick by William Lauder, a Sc
who had, with equal impudence
presented Milton as a plagiary fr
Latin poets, Johnson, who had b
upon as to furnish a Preface an
work, now dictated a letter for
to Dr. Douglas, acknowledging
of suitable contrition.[2]

[1] [Mrs. Elizabeth Foster died
CHALMERS.]

[2] Lest there should be any person,

This extraordinary attempt of Lauder was
sudden effort. He had brooded over it for m
years: and to this hour it is uncertain what his p
cipal motive was, unless it were a vain notion o
superiority, in being able, by whatever means, to
ceive mankind. To effect this, he produced cer
passages from Grotius, Masenius, and others, wh
had a faint resemblance to some parts of the "P
dise Lost." In these he interpolated some fragm
of Hog's Latin translation of that poem, alled
that the mass thus fabricated was the archetype f
which Milton copied. These fabrications he p

absurd enough to suspect that Johnson was a part
in Lauder's fraud, or had any knowledge of it, whe
assisted him with his masterly pen, it is proper her
quote the words of Dr. Douglas, now Bishop of S
bury, at the time when he detected the imposition.
is to be hoped, nay it is *expected*, that the elegant
nervous writer, whose judicious sentiments and in
table style point out the authour of Lauder's Preface
postscript, will no longer allow one to *plume himself*
his feathers, who appeareth so little to deserve assistan
an assistance which I am persuaded would never h
been communicated, had there been the least suspi
of those facts which I have been the instrument of
veying to the world in these sheets." *Milton no Plagi*
2d edit. p. 78. And his Lordship has been pleased
to authorise me to say, in the strongest manner,
there is no ground whatever for any unfavourable re
tion against Dr. Johnson, who expressed the strong
indignation against Lauder.

[Lauder renewed his attempts on Milton's chara
in 1754, in a pamphlet entitled, "The Grand Impos
detected, or Milton convicted of forgery against K
Charles I;"—which was reviewed, probably by Johns
in the Gent. Mag. 1754, p. 97.—A. CHALMERS.]

[Lauder afterwards went to Barbadoes, where he d

Writes a Preface for Lauder

lished from time to time in
zine; and, exulting in hi
1750 ventured to collect th
titled "An Essay on Milt
of the Moderns in his Pa
pamphlet Johnson wrote a
of Lauder's honesty, and a
ing, in the most persuasive
the relief of a grand-daug
he thus speaks: "It is yet
people to reward the poet
and from their alliance to
some kind of superiority to
earth; that poet, whose wo
when every other monum
shall be obliterated; to re
tures or with medals, whicl
contempt, but with tokens
perhaps, may even now c
the regard of an immorta
inconsistent with "enmity
Sir John Hawkins imput
occasion, adding, "I coul
Johnson seemed to approve
but of the argument; and
suasion, that the reputation
suffer by this discovery.
the imposture, I am well pe
well to the argument, ma
Preface, which indubitabl
son." Is it possible for
ment to suppose that Johns
the poetical excellence of
this very "discovery," as h

at the same time, exult in a persuasion that t
great poet's reputation was likely to suffer by i
This is an inconsistency of which Johnson was i
capable; nor can any thing more be fairly inferr
from the Preface, than that Johnson, who was ali
distinguished for ardent curiosity and love of tru
was pleased with an investigation by which bo
were gratified. That he was actuated by the
motives, and certainly by no unworthy desire
depreciate our great epick poet, is evident from
own words; for, after mentioning the general z
of men of genius and literature, "to advance t
honour, and distinguish the beauties of Parad
Lost," he says, "Among the inquiries to whi
this ardour of criticism has naturally given occasi
none is more obscure in itself, or more worthy
rational curiosity, than a retrospect of the progr
of this mighty genius in the construction of his wor
a view of the fabrick gradually rising, perhaps, fr
small beginnings, till its foundation rests in the cent
and its turrets sparkle in the skies; to trace ba
the structure through all its varieties, to the si
plicity of its first plan; to find what was first pr
jected, whence the scheme was taken, how it w
improved, by what assistance it was executed, a
from what stores the materials were collecte
whether its founder dug them from the quarries
Nature, or demolished other buildings to embelli
his own."[1]—Is this the language of one who wish
to blast the laurels of Milton?

[1] ["Proposals (written evidently by Johnson)
printing the ADAMUS EXUL of Grotius, with a Translati
and Notes by Wm. Lauder, A.M." Gent. Mag. 17

Mrs. Anna Williams

Though Johnson's circumstan time far from being easy, his hum disposition was constantly exert Anna Williams, daughter of a ver physician, and a woman of mo talents and literature, having con hopes of being cured of a cataract which afterwards ended in tota kindly received as a constant vi while Mrs. Johnson lived; and, having come under his roof in operation upon her eyes performed fort to her than in lodgings, she from him during the rest of her when he had a house.

In 1752 he was almost entire his Dictionary. The last paper was published March 2,[1] this ye there was a cessation for some tim of his talents as an essayist. But, Dr. Hawkesworth, who was his w a studious imitator of his style, a

[1] [Here the author's memory failed to the account given in a former pag should here read March 17; but in already observed, the Rambler closed *fourteenth* of March; at which time near her end, for she died on the fo March 17. Had the concluding pa been written on the day of her death, i still more extraordinary than it is, consi grief into which the author was plung —The melancholy cast of that conclu ciently accounted for by the situation at the time it was written; and her afterwards put an end to the Paper.—]

great intimacy with him, began a periodical pap entitled, "THE ADVENTURER," in connection wi other gentlemen, one of whom was Johnson's muc loved friend, Dr. Bathurst; and, without dou they received many valuable hints from his co versation, most of his friends having been so assist in the course of their works.

That there should be a suspension of his litera labours during a part of the year 1752, will n seem strange, when it is considered that soon af closing his Rambler, he suffered a loss which, the can be no doubt, affected him with the deep distress. For on the 17th of March, O. S., wife died. Why Sir John Hawkins should u warrantably take upon him even to *suppose* th Johnson's fondness for her was *dissembled* (meani simulated or assumed,) and to assert, that if it w not the case, "it was a lesson he had learned rote," I cannot conceive; unless it proceeded fr a want of similar feelings in his own breast. argue from her being much older than Johns or any other circumstances, that he could not rea love her, is absurd; for love is not a subject reasoning, but of feeling, and therefore there no common principles upon which one can persua another concerning it. Every man feels for hi self, and knows how he is affected by particu qualities in the person he admires, the impressio of which are too minute and delicate to be su stantiated in language.

The following very solemn and affecting pray was found after Dr. Johnson's decease, by his se vant, Mr. Francis Barber, who delivered it to n

His love for his wife

of Islington, who at my earnest re
ingly favoured me with a copy of i
I compared with the original. I p
world as an undoubted proof of a
the character of my illustrious friend
some whose hard minds I never
attack as superstitious, will I am s
more to numbers of good men.
tional, and that a personal motive
it, because it sanctions what I mys
maintained and am fond to indulge

"April 26, 175
at Night of

"O Lord! Governour of heave
whose hands are embodied and d
if thou hast ordained the Souls o
minister to the Living, and appoint
Wife to have care of me, grant th
the good effects of her attention a
whether exercised by appearance; in
or in any other manner agreeable
ment. Forgive my presumption,
ignorance, and however meaner agent
grant me the blessed influences of
through Jesus Christ our Lord. A

What actually followed upon this

kind, and, during the long period of fifty ye
was unimpaired by the lapse of time, is evi
from various passages in the series of his Pra
and Meditations, published by the Reverend
Strahan, as well as from other memorials, tw
which I select, as strongly marking the tender
and sensibility of his mind.

"March 28, 1753. I kept this day as the a
versary of my Tetty's death, with prayer and t
in the morning. In the evening I prayed for
conditionally, if it were lawful."

"April 23, 1753. I know not whether I
not too much indulge the vain longings of affecti
but I hope they intenerate my heart, and that w
I die like my Tetty, this affection will be ackn
ledged in a happy interview, and that in the m
time I am incited by it to piety. I will, howe
not deviate too much from common and rece
methods of devotion."

Her wedding-ring, when she became his w
was, after her death, preserved by him, as lon
he lived, with an affectionate care, in a little ro
wooden box, in the inside of which he pasted a
of paper, thus inscribed by him in fair charac
as follows:

"*Eheu!*
Eliz. Johnson,
Nuptæ Jul. 9° 1736,

"Irene" quoted

daughter; but she having declin
he had it enamelled as a mourni
master, and presented it to his
who now has it.

The state of mind in which a
the death of a woman whom
had been in his contemplation n
In his IRENE, we find the follo
tender speech of Demetrius,
Aspasia:

"From those bright regions of e
Where now thou shin'st amongs
Array'd in purer light, look do
In pleasing visions and assuasiv
O! sooth my soul, and teach
thee."

I have, indeed, been told by
who, before her marriage, lived f
Mrs. Johnson at Hampstead, t
herself in country air and nice li
able expence, while her husband
the smoke of London, and that
treated him with that complace
most engaging quality in a wife.
perfectly compatible with his f
especially when it is remembere
high opinion of her understandi
impressions which her beauty, re
had originally made upon his fancy
by habit, had not been effaced, th
was doubtless much altered for t

night; and he immediately dispatched a letter
his friend, the Reverend Dr. Taylor, which,
Taylor told me, expressed grief in the stronge
manner he had ever read; so that it is much to
regretted it has not been preserved.[1] The lett
was brought to Dr. Taylor, at his house in t
Cloysters, Westminster, about three in the mor
ing; and as it signified an earnest desire to see hi
he got up, and went to Johnson as soon as he w
dressed, and found him in tears and in extren
agitation. After being a little while together, Joh
son requested him to join with him in prayer. H
then prayed extempore, as did Dr. Taylor; a
thus by means of that piety which was ever
primary object, his troubled mind was, in so
degree, soothed and composed.

The next day he wrote as follows:

"To the Reverend Dr. Taylor.

"dear sir,

"Let me have your company and instructio
Do not live away from me. My distress is great

"Pray desire Mrs. Taylor to inform me wh
mourning I should buy for my mother and M
Porter, and bring a note in writing with you.

"Remember me in your prayers, for vain is t
help of man.

"I am, dear Sir, &c.

"Sam. Johnson

"March 18, 1752."

[1] [In the Gentleman's Magazine for February, 179
(p. 100,) was printed a letter pretending to be th
written by Johnson on the death of his wife. But it
merely a transcript of the 41st number of "The Idle

Francis Barber

That his sufferings upon th
were severe, beyond what are
I have no doubt, from the i
who were then about him, to r
more credit than to Mr. Franci
negro servant,[1] who came into
fortnight after the dismal even
were aggravated by the melanc
constitution; and although he
oftener in the wrong than she
agreements which sometimes t
state, during which, he owne
gloomy irritability of his existen
to him than ever, he might very
death, be tenderly disposed to
slight omissions and offences,
would give him much uneasin

1751, O. S., was added by some pers
paper's being sent to the publishe
to give a colour to this deception.—

[1] Francis Barber was born in Jama
to England in 1750 by Colonel Bath
son's very intimate friend, Dr. Bath
for some time, to the Reverend Mr.
Barton, in Yorkshire. The Colonel
his freedom, and Dr. Bathurst was w
enter into Johnson's service, in whi
1752 till Johnson's death, with th
intervals; in one of which, upon
his master, he went and served an a
side, but still visited Dr. Johnson
other, he took a fancy to go to sea
indeed, he was, by the kindness of hi
in Northamptonshire, that he might
of some learning. So early, and so
was there between Dr. Johnson and
[2] [See his beautiful and affecting Pa

out a year after her decease, that he thus
the Supreme Being: "O LORD, who
grace of repentance, and hearest the
the penitent, grant that by true contrition
in forgiveness of all the sins committed,
duties neglected, in my union with the
a thou hast taken from me; for the
joint devotion, patient exhortation, and
action."[1] The kindness of his heart,
ding the impetuosity of his temper, is
n to his friends; and I cannot trace the
undation for the following dark and un-
assertion by Sir John Hawkins: "The
of his departed wife was altogether of
k kind, and hardly afforded him a hope
as in a state of happiness."[2] That he,
ity with the opinion of many of the most
d, and pious Christians in all ages, sup-
there was a middle state after death,
the time at which departed souls are
ived to eternal felicity, appears, I think,
bly from his devotions:[3] "And, O
ar as it may be lawful in me, I commend
herly goodness *the soul of my departed*
eching thee to *grant* her whatever is best
nt state, and *finally to receive her to eter-*
s."[4] But this state has not been looked
horrour, but only as less gracious.

and Meditations, p. 19.
s's Life of Johnson, p. 316.
not appear that Johnson was fully persuaded
vas a middle state: his prayers being only
e if such a state existed.—M.

Funeral sermon for his wife

He deposited the remains of
the church of Bromley in Kent,[1]
probably led by the residence of hi
worth at that place. The funer
he composed for her, which was
but having been given to Dr. T
published since his death, is a pe
common excellence, and full of r
comfort to such as are depressed
affliction which Johnson felt wh
When it is considered that it wa
an agitation of mind, and in th
between her death and burial, it
without wonder.

From Mr. Francis Barber I h
lowing authentick and artless acco
tion in which he found him recent
death: "He was in great affliction.
was then living in his house, which
square. He was busy with the I
Shiels, and some others of the ge

[1] [A few months before his death,
her memory by the following epitap
scribed on her tombstone, in the chur

Hic conduntur reliqu
ELIZABETHÆ
Antiqua Jarvisiorum g
Peatlingæ, apud Leicestrien
Formosæ, cultæ, ingenios
Uxoris, primis nuptiis, HENR
Secundis, SAMUELIS JOHN
Qui multum amatam, diuque
Hoc lapide contexit

formerly written for him, used to come about hi
He had then little for himself, but frequently se
money to Mr. Shiels when in distress. The frien
who visited him at that time, were chiefly D
Bathurst,[1] and Mr. Diamond, an apothecary
Cork-street, Burlington-gardens, with whom
and Mrs. Williams generally dined every Sunda
There was a talk of his going to Iceland with hi
which would probably have happened, had he live
There were also Mr. Cave, Dr. Hawkesworth
Mr. Ryland, merchant on Tower-hill, Mrs. Maste
the poetess, who lived with Mr. Cave, Mrs. Cart
and sometimes Mrs. Macaulay; also, Mrs. Gardin
wife of a tallow-chandler on Snow-hill, not in t
learned way, but a worthy good woman; Mr. (n
Sir Joshua) Reynolds; Mr. Miller, Mr. Dodsle
Mr. Bouquet, Mr. Payne, of Paternoster-ro
booksellers; Mr. Strahan, the printer; the Earl
Orrery, Lord Southwell, Mr. Garrick."

Many are, no doubt, omitted in this catalogue
his friends, and in particular, his humble frie
Mr. Robert Levet, an obscure practiser in physi
amongst the lower people, his fees being sometim
very small sums, sometimes whatever provisions
patients could afford him; but of such extens

[1] Dr. Bathurst, though a physician of no inconsid
able merit, had not the good fortune to get much pr
tice in London. He was, therefore, willing to accept
employment abroad, and, to the regret of all who kn
him, fell a sacrifice to the destructive climate, in
expedition against the Havannah. Mr. Langton
collects the following passage in a letter from Dr. Jol
son to Mr. Beauclerk: "The Havannah is taken;
conquest too dearly obtained; for, Bathurst died before

Robert Levet

practice in that way, that M
me, his walk was from Hou
It appears from Johnson's dia
ance commenced about the
was Johnson's predilection fo
mation of his moderate abili
him say he should not be sat
by all the College of Physici
Levet with him. Ever si
with Dr. Johnson, and ma
have been assured by those
Mr. Levet had an apartmen
chambers, and waited upon
through the whole course o
breakfast. He was of a stra
ance, stiff and formal in hi
said a word while any compa

The circle of his friends, i
extensive and various, far b
generally imagined. To t
with each particular person,
would be a task, of which th
repaid by the advantage. Bu
made; one of which must be
Sir Joshua Reynolds, who wa
and with whom he maintained
macy to the last hour of his
lived in Castle-street, Caven
frequently to visit two ladies

[1] [A more particular account
found in the Gentleman's Maga
It originally appeared in the St.
I believe, was written by the lat

him, Miss Cotterells, daughters of Admiral
terell. Reynolds used also to visit there, and
they met. Mr. Reynolds, as I have observed al
had, from the first reading of his Life of Sa
conceived a very high admiration of John
powers of writing. His conversation no less
lighted him; and he cultivated his acquaint
with the laudable zeal of one who was ambi
of general improvement. Sir Joshua, indeed,
lucky enough at their very first meeting to ma
remark, which was so much above the comm
place style of conversation, that Johnson at
perceived that Reynolds had the habit of thin
for himself. The ladies were regretting the d
of a friend, to whom they owed great obligati
upon which Reynolds observed, "You have, l
ever, the comfort of being relieved from a bu
of gratitude." They were shocked a little at
alleviating suggestion, as too selfish; but Joh
defended it in his clear and forcible manner,
was much pleased with the *mind*, the fair vie
human nature,[1] which it exhibited, like som
the reflections of Rochefaucault. The consequ
was, that he went home with Reynolds, and su
with him.

Sir Joshua told me a pleasant characteris
anecdote of Johnson about the time of their
acquaintance. When they were one evening
gether at the Miss Cotterells', the then Duche

[1] [Johnson himself has a sentiment somewhat si
in his 87th Rambler: "There are minds so impatie
inferiority, that their gratitude is a species of rev
and they return benefits, not because recompence

Bennet Langton

Argyle and another lady of high
Johnson thinking that the Miss
too much engrossed by them, and
friend were neglected, as low com
they were somewhat ashamed, gr
resolving to shock their supposed p
their great visiters imagine that his
were low indeed, he addressed hi
tone to Mr. Reynolds, saying, "
you think you and I could get in
were to *work as hard* as we could
had been common mechanicks.

His acquaintance with Bennet L
Langton, in Lincolnshire, another
friend, commenced soon after the c
Rambler; which that gentleman,
had read with so much admiration
to London chiefly with a view of
be introduced to its authour. By a f
he happened to take lodgings in a h
Levet frequently visited; and havin
wish to his landlady, she introduc
Levet, who readily obtained Johns
to bring Mr. Langton to him; as, i
during the whole course of his life,
real or affected, but was easy of ac
were properly recommended, and
see numbers at his *levee*, as his m
company might, with strict propri
Mr. Langton was exceedingly surp
sage first appeared. He had no
smallest intimation of his figure, dr
From perusing his writings, he fan

ıilosopher. Instead of which, down
d-chamber, about noon, came, as newly
e uncouth figure, with a little dark wig
:ely covered his head, and his clothes
ɜe about him. But his conversation was
animated, and so forcible, and his re-
ɔolitical notions so congenial with those
ıngton had been educated, that he con-
im that veneration and attachment which
erved. Johnson was not the less ready
Langton, for his being of a very ancient
I have heard him say, with pleasure,
Sir, has a grant of free warren from
ɜecond; and Cardinal Stephen Langton,
ın's reign, was of this family."

ɣton afterwards went to pursue his studies
College, Oxford, where he formed an
: with his fellow-student, Mr. Topham
who, though their opinions and modes
so different, that it seemed utterly im-
.t they should at all agree, had so ardent
erature, so acute an understanding, such
manners, and so well discerned the
ıalities of Mr. Langton, a gentleman
only for worth and learning, but for
tible fund of entertaining conversation,
came intimate friends.

soon after this acquaintance began, passed
le time at Oxford. He at first thought
ıat Langton should associate so much
ıo had the character of being loose, both
iples and practice: but, by degrees, he
fascinated. Mr. Beauclerk's being of

Johnson and Beauclerk

culars, a resemblance to Charl
tributed, in Johnson's imaginati
upon his other qualities; and
moral, pious Johnson, and the
clerk, were companions. "Wh
Garrick, when he heard of thi
old friend to bail out of the K
I can bear testimony that it
association. Beauclerk was to
learning and wit too much, t
sallies of infidelity or licentio
delighted in the good qualitie
hoped to correct the evil. I
scenes in which Johnson was a
men. Beauclerk could take n
than any body with whom I
on the other hand, Beauclerk
his respectable companion, whe
Beauclerk had such a propen
one time Johnson said to him
your mouth but with intentio
you have often given me pain,
of what you said, but from se
At another time applying to
alteration, a line of Pope, he s

"Thy love of folly, and th

Every thing thou dost shews
thing thou say'st the other."
said to him, "Thy body is a
all virtue." Beauclerk not s
compliment, Johnson said, "
the Great, marching in triump

A fris with Beau- clerk Lang

›me time with Beauclerk at his , where he was entertained with tural philosophy. One Sunday, was very fine, Beauclerk enticed saunter about all the morning. :hurch-yard, in the time of divine ɔn laid himself down at his ease omb-stones. "Now, Sir, (said e like Hogarth's Idle Appren- ınson got his pension, Beauclerk e humourous phrase of Falstaff, ɔw purge and live cleanly, like a

:n Beauclerk and Langton had ı in London, and sat till about ıg, it came into their heads to go ıson, and see if they could prevail em in a ramble. They rapped r of his chambers in the Temple, :ared in his shirt, with his little ›p of his head, instead of a night- n his hand, imagining, probably, ere coming to attack him. When they were, and was told their , and with great good humour oposal: "What, is it you, you risk with you."[1] He was soon lied forth together into Covent- greengrocers and fruiterers were

Kemble observes to me, might here ghts the words of Sir John Brute, ɔubtless he had seen represented by nearly the same expression in "the

Langton's desertion

beginning to arrange their hampers, from the country. Johnson made s to help them; but the honest garde at his figure and manner, and odd inte he soon saw his services were not reli then repaired to one of the neighbo and made a bowl of that liquor called Johnson had always liked: while in jo of sleep, from which he had been rouse the festive lines,

"Short, O short then be thy n
And give us to the world ag

They did not stay long, but walked Thames, took a boat, and rowed to Beauclerk and Johnson were so well their amusement, that they resolved t dissipation for the rest of the day: deserted them, being engaged to b some young Ladies. Johnson scol "leaving his social friends, to go and of wretched *un-idea'd* girls." Garric this ramble, said to him smartly, "I l frolick t'other night. You'll be in th Upon which Johnson afterwards ob durst not do such a thing. His *w let* him!"

He entered upon this year 1753 v piety, as appears from the following

[1] Mr. Langton recollected, or Dr. Joh the passage wrong. The lines are in Lor Drinking Song to Sleep, and run thus:

I transcribed from that part of his diary which
burnt a few days before his death:

"Jan. 1, 1753, N. S. which I shall use for t
future.

"Almighty God, who hast continued my life
this day, grant that, by the assistance of thy Ho
Spirit, I may improve the time which thou sha
grant me, to my eternal salvation. Make me
remember, to thy glory, thy judgements and th
mercies. Make me so to consider the loss of m
wife, whom thou hast taken from me, that it m
dispose me, by thy grace, to lead the residue of m
life in thy fear. Grant this, O Lord, for Jes
Christ's sake. Amen."

He now relieved the drudgery of his Dictionar
and the melancholy of his grief, by taking an acti
part in the composition of "The Adventurer,"
which he began to write, April 10, marking h
essays with the signature T, by which most of h
papers in that collection are distinguished: thos
however, which have that signature and also th
of *Mysargyrus*, were not written by him, but,
I suppose, by Dr. Bathurst. Indeed Johnson
energy of thought and richness of language, are st
more decisive marks than any signature. As
proof of this, my readers, I imagine, will not dou
that number 39, on sleep, is his; for it not on
has the general texture and colour of his style, b
the authours with whom he was peculiarly co
versant are readily introduced in it in cursory all
sion. The translation of a passage in Statiu

[1] [This is a slight inaccuracy. The Latin Sapphic
translated by C. B. in that paper were written by Cowle

Letter to Joseph Warton

quoted in that paper, and marke
erroneously ascribed to Dr. Bathu
tian name was Richard. How m
man actually contributed to "T
cannot be known. Let me adc
worth's imitations of Johnson a
happy, that it is extremely diffic
them, with certainty, from the co
great archetype. Hawkesworth
imitator, a circumstance of which
once have been proud to be told;
had become elated by having risen
of consequence, he, in a conversati
the provoking effrontery to say he
of it.

Johnson was truly zealous fo
"The Adventurer;" and very s
gaging in it, he wrote the followin

"To the Reverend Dr. Jos

"DEAR SIR,

"I OUGHT to have written to y
I ought to do many things whic
can I, indeed, claim any merit fro
being desired by the authours a
the Adventurer to look out for a
thoughts necessarily fixed upon y
literature will enable you to assis
little interruption of your studies.

"They desire you to engage to
a month, at two guineas a paper,
very readily perform. We hav

pictures of life, and disquisitions of literature. Th
part which depends on the imagination is very we
supplied, as you will find when you read the paper
for descriptions of life, there is now a treaty almo
made with an authour and an authouress;[1] and th
province of criticism and literature they are ver
desirous to assign to the commentator on Virgil.

"I hope this proposal will not be rejected, an
that the next post will bring us your compliance.
speak as one of the fraternity, though I have no pa
in the paper, beyond now and then a motto; b
two of the writers are my particular friends, and
hope the pleasure of seeing a third united to them
will not be denied to, dear Sir,

"Your most obedient,

"And most humble servant,

"SAM. JOHNSO

"March 8, 1753."

[1] [It is not improbable, that the "authour and authou
ess, with whom a treaty was almost made,—for descri
tions of life," and who are mentioned in a manner th
seems to indicate some connexion between them, we
Henry, and his sister Sally, Fielding, as she was th
popularly called. Fielding had previously been a period
cal essayist, and certainly was well acquainted with li
in all its varieties, more especially within the precinc
of London; and his sister was a lively and ingenio
writer. To this notion perhaps it may be objected, th
no papers in THE ADVENTURER are known to be their pr
ductions. But it should be remembered, that of sever
of the Essays in that work the authours are unknown
and some of these may have been written by the perso
here supposed to be alluded to. Nor would the objecti
be decisive, even if it were ascertained that neither
them contributed any thing to THE ADVENTURER; for t
treaty above-mentioned might afterwards have been brok
off. The negotiator, doubtless, was Hawkesworth, a

Writers in The Adventurer

The consequence of this letter ton's enriching the collection with essays.

Johnson's saying "I have no pa beyond now and then a motto," sistent with his being the authou marked T. But he had, at this ti one number;[1] and besides, even at

not Johnson.—Fielding was at this ti reputation; having, in 1751, produc which the whole impression was sold its publication.—M.]

[1] [The authour, I conceive, is here had before stated, that Johnson began Adventurer" on April 10th (when No. above a month after the date of his lett The two papers published previously T, and subscribed MYSARGYRUS, (No. written, I believe, by Bonnell Thornton also all the papers signed A. This info several years ago; but do not precisel whom I derived it. I believe, howe was Dr. Warton.

With respect to No. 39, on Sleep, w has ascribed to Johnson, (see p. 237, written by him, it would not be incc statement to Dr. Warton; for it ap 20th, near a fortnight after the date c to that gentleman.—But on consideri though the style bears a strong resem Johnson, I believe it was written b Bathurst, and perhaps touched in a fe son. Mr. Boswell has observed, that only has the general texture and colou the authours with whom he was pec are readily introduced in it, in cursory the authours mentioned in that paper Milton, Ramazzini, Madlle. de Scude Barretier, Statius, Cowley, and Sir

he might have used the same expression, consi
it as a point of honour not to own them; fo
Williams told me that, "as he had *given*
Essays to Dr. Bathurst, who sold them a
guineas each, he never would own them; n
used to say, he did not *write* them: but th
was, that he *dictated* them, while Bathurst w
I read to him Mrs. Williams's account; he s
and said nothing.

I am not quite satisfied with the casuist
which the productions of one person are thus
upon the world for the productions of anoth
allow that not only knowledge, but power
qualities of mind may be communicated; b
actual effect of individual exertion never
transferred, with truth, to any other than it
original cause. One person's child may be
the child of another person by adoption, as
the Romans, or by the ancient Jewish mod

With many of these, doubtless, Johnson was parti
conversant; but I doubt whether he would have
terised the expression quoted from Swift, as *elegan*
with the works of RAMAZZINI it is very improbab
he should have been acquainted. Ramazzini was
brated physician, who died at Padua, in 1714, at
of 81; with whose writings Dr. Bathurst may
posed to have been conversant. So also with res
Cowley: Johnson, without doubt, had read his
poem on Plants; but Bathurst's profession proba
him to read it with more attention than his frie
given to it; and Cowley's eulogy on the POPPY
more readily occur to the Naturalist and the Phy
than to a more general reader. I believe, howeve
the last paragraph of the paper on Sleep, in
Sir Thomas Browne is quoted, to shew the pr
of prayer, before we lie down to rest, was ad
Johnson.—M.]

Boswell on primogeniture

wife having children borne
by her handmaid. But th
different sense from that of
understood that they were
nominal parents. So in lite
may give the profits and fa
another man, but cannot n
authour. A Highland gent
of a family, once consulte
validly purchase the Chie
from the Chief, who was w
him it was impossible for
chase, a right to be a dif
he really was; for that th
attached to the blood of p
fore, was incapable of bein
that though Esau sold his
tages belonging to it, he
born of his parents; and
a Chief might make wit
Heralds-Office could not
phosis, or with any decenc
was the elder; but I did
gentleman.

Johnson's papers in th
similar to those of the Ra
more varied in their sub
with essays by other writ
generally attractive than

[1] [Dr. Johnson lowered a
style, in writing the Adventu
might pass for those of Dr.
signed the profits. This was

ethical discourses, the sale of the work, at first, more extensive. Without meaning, however, depreciate the Adventurer, I must observe, tha the value of the Rambler came, in the progres time, to be better known, it grew upon the pub estimation, and that its sale has far exceeded of any other periodical papers since the reign Queen Anne.

In one of the books of his diary I find the lowing entry:

"Apr. 3, 1753. I began the second vol. of Dictionary, room being left in the first for Pref Grammar, and History, none of them yet begu

"O God, who hast hitherto supported enable me to proceed in this labour, and in whole task of my present state; that when I s render up, at the last day, an account of the ta committed to me, I may receive pardon, for sake of Jesus Christ. Amen."

He this year favoured Mrs. Lennox with a D cation * to the Earl of Orrery, of her "Shaksp Illustrated." [1]

[1] [Two of Johnson's Letters, addressed to Sa Richardson, authour of Clarissa, &c. the former d March 9, 1750–1, the other September 26, 1753, preserved in Richardson's Correspondence, 8vo. 1 vol. v. pp. 281–284. In the latter of these letters J son suggested to Richardson, the propriety of ma an Index to his three works: "but while I am writ (he adds) an objection arises; such an index to the t would look like the preclusion of a fourth, to whi will never contribute; for if I cannot benefit mank I hope never to injure them." Richardson, how adopted the hint; for in 1755 he published in oct "A Collection of the Moral and Instructive Sentim

Life of Cave

In 1754 I can trace nothi
except his numbers of the Ac
Life of Edward Cave," *
Magazine for February. In
be no question that he excel
have attempted that species o
which, indeed, he set the hi
minute selection of character
for which the ancients were
a philosophical research, and
and energetick language. Cav
of estimable qualities, and w
and successful in his own bu
less, entitled him to respect.
fortunate in being recorded b
the narrow life of a printer a
any digressions or adventitiou
made an interesting and agree

The Dictionary, we may b
son full occupation this year.
its conclusion, he probably w
vigour, as seamen increase
alacrity when they have a
haven.

Lord Chesterfield, to whc
the high compliment of addre
the Plan of his Dictionary,
in such a manner as to exc

Histories of Pamela, Clarissa, and
digested under proper heads."

It is remarkable, that both to
first two volumes of Clarissa, i
a friend. The "friend," in this

The world has been for many years a story confidently told, and as confi-ed with additional circumstances, that just was taken by Johnson upon occa-ving been one day kept long in waiting ip's antechamber, for which the reason that he had company with him; and when the door opened, out walked ; and that Johnson was so violently en he found for whom he had been ded, that he went away in a passion, uld return. I remember having men-ory to George Lord Lyttelton, who was very intimate with Lord Chester-ding it as a well-known truth, defended rfield by saying, that "Cibber, who oduced familiarly by the back-stairs, not been there above ten minutes." strange even to entertain a doubt story so long and so widely current, licitly adopted, if not sanctioned, by which I have mentioned; but Johnson ed me, that there was not the least r it. He told me, that there never ular incident which produced a quarrel d Chesterfield and him; but that his ntinued neglect was the reason why to have no connexion with him. ictionary was upon the eve of publi-Chesterfield, who, it is said, had flat-with expectations that Johnson would work to him, attempted, in a courtly oothe and insinuate himself with the

Lord Chesterfield's tardy praises

indifference with which
authour; and further at
by writing two papers in
mendation of the work;
that they contain some
finely turned, that if th
offence, it is probable
been highly delighted.
pleasing to him; but by
and elegant accomplish
gratified.

His Lordship says,
general, and the republi
are greatly obliged to
undertaken, and execute
work. Perfection is not
but if we are to judge
Johnson already publish
to believe, that he will b
tion as any man could d
he published some years
a proof of it. Nothin
imagined, or more acc
pressed. I therefore
perusal of it to all tho
Dictionary, and who, I
can afford it."

* * *

"It must be owned,
present, in a state of anar
it may not have been
our free and open trade,

our own. Let it still preserve what real st
and beauty it may have borrowed from other
let it not, like the Tarpeian maid, be overwh
and crushed by unnecessary ornaments. Th
for discrimination seems to be now come. T
tion, adoption, and naturalization have run
lengths. Good order and authority are now
sary. But where shall we find them, and
same time, the obedience due to them? W
have recourse to the old Roman expedient in
of confusion, and chuse a dictator. Upo
principle, I give my vote for Mr. Johnson,
that great and arduous post, and I hereby d
that I make a total surrender of all my righ
privileges in the English language, as a fre
British subject, to the said Mr. Johnson,
the term of his dictatorship. Nay more,
not only obey him like an old Roman, a
dictator, but, like a modern Roman, I wi
plicitly believe in him as my Pope, and hol
to be infallible while in the chair, but no l
More than this he cannot well require;
presume, that obedience can never be exp
when there is neither terrour to enforce, nor i
to invite it."

* * * * * * *

"But a Grammar, a Dictionary, and a H
of our Language, through its several stages,
still wanting at home, and importunately call
from abroad. Mr. Johnson's labours will n
dare say, very fully supply that want, and g
contribute to the farther spreading of our lan
in other countries. Learners were discourage

Johnson's indignation

thought it incapable of any. undeceived and encouraged."

This courtly device failed who thought that "all wa despised the honeyed words, nant that Lord Chesterfield imagine, that he could be artifice. His expression to Chesterfield, upon this occa making great professions, he taken no notice of me; but was coming out, he fell a World' about it. Upon w letter expressed in civil term shew him that I did not n wrote, and that I had done w

This is that celebrated let has been said, and about wh so long excited, without b many years solicited Johnson copy of it, that so excellent not be lost to posterity. H to time to give it me;[1] till we were on a visit at Mr.

[1] Dr. Johnson appeared to delicacy with respect to the ci for Dr. Douglas, Bishop of Sal having many years ago pressed it to the second Lord Hardwick to hear it, (promising at the of it should be taken,) Johnso that it had attracted the attenti a respectable character; but a declined to comply with the smile. "No, Sir; I have hurt th

Bedfordshire, he was pleased to dictate it to from memory. He afterwards found among papers a copy of it, which he had dictated to Baretti, with its title and corrections, in his hand-writing. This he gave to Mr. Lang adding that if it were to come into print, he wi it to be from that copy. By Mr. Langton's k ness, I am enabled to enrich my work wi perfect transcript of what the world has so ea desired to see.

"To the Right Honourable the Earl Chesterfield.

"my lord, February 7, 1

"I have been lately informed, by the prietor of the World, that two papers, in w my Dictionary is recommended to the publick, written by your Lordship. To be so distingui is an honour, which, being very little accusto to favours from the great, I know not well ho receive, or in what terms to acknowledge.

"When, upon some slight encouragement, I visited your Lordship, I was overpowered, like rest of mankind, by the enchantment of your add and could not forbear to wish that I might myself *Le vainqueur du vainqueur de la terre*;— I might obtain that regard for which I saw world contending; but I found my attendanc little encouraged, that neither pride nor mo would suffer me to continue it. When I had addressed your Lordship in publick, I had exha

Letter to Lord Chesterfield

scholar can possess. I had
and no man is well pleased to
be it ever so little.

"Seven years, my Lord, I
waited in your outward rooms
your door; during which tim
on my work through difficu
useless to complain, and hav
to the verge of publication,
assistance,[1] one word of en
smile of favour. Such treatm
for I never had a Patron befo

"The shepherd in Virgil
with Love, and found him a

"Is not a Patron, my Lor
unconcern on a man strugglin
and, when he has reached g
with help? The notice w
pleased to take of my labou
had been kind; but it has b
indifferent, and cannot enjoy
and cannot impart it;[2] till

[1] The following note is subj
"Dr. Johnson, when he gave m
desired that I would annex to i
that whereas it is said in the l
has been received,' he did once r
field the sum of ten pounds; bu
siderable a sum, he thought the
properly find a place in a lett
was."

[2] In this passage Dr. Johnso
loss of his wife. We find the
recurring to his mind upon inn
perhaps no man ever more forci

not want it. I hope it is no very cynical aspe not to confess obligations where no benefit has received, or to be unwilling that the Publick sh consider me as owing that to a Patron, which vidence has enabled me to do for myself.

"Having carried on my work thus far wit little obligation to any favourer of learning, I not be disappointed though I should conclude less be possible, with less; for I have been wakened from that dream of hope, in which I boasted myself with so much exultation,

"My Lord,

"Your Lordship's most humble

"Most obedient servant,

"Sam. Johnso

"While this was the talk of the town, (says Adams, in a letter to me) I happened to visit Warburton, who finding that I was acquainted Johnson, desired me earnestly to carry his com ments to him, and to tell him, that he hono him for his manly behaviour in rejecting these

Malone, in his Prologue to Mr. Jephson's tragec Julia:

"Vain—wealth, and fame, and fortune's fostering
If no fond breast the splendid blessings share;
And, each day's bustling pageantry once past,
There, only there, our bliss is found at last."

[1] Upon comparing this copy with that which Johnson dictated to me from recollection, the varia are found to be so slight, that this must be added t many other proofs which he gave of the wonderfu tent and accuracy of his memory. To gratify the cu

Johnson and Warburton

descensions of Lord Che
ing the treatment he had
a proper spirit. Johnson
this compliment, for he h
of Warburton.[1] Indeed,
appeared in this letter,
which Warburton himself

There is a curious mi
struck me, in comparing
Johnson's Imitations of
Satire one of the couplets
even for literary distinctio

"Yet think what ills t
Toil, envy, want, th

But after experiencing th
Chesterfield's fallacious p
he dismissed the word
group, and in all the sub
stands,

"Toil, envy, want, th

[1] Soon after Edwards's "
out, Johnson was dining a
with Hayman the Painter
Hayman related to Sir Joshu
sation having turned upon
men praised it much, and
But when they went farthe
authour upon a level wit
Johnson,) he has given him
but there is no proportion
must not be named togeth
stately horse, and make hi

That Lord Chesterfield must have been mortified by the lofty contempt, and polite, yet keen, satire with which Johnson exhibited him to himself in this letter, it is impossible to doubt. He, however, with that glossy duplicity which was his constant study, affected to be quite unconcerned. Dr. Adams mentioned to Mr. Robert Dodsley that he was sorry Johnson had written his letter to Lord Chesterfield. Dodsley, with the true feelings of trade, said "he was very sorry too; for that he had a property in the Dictionary, to which his Lordship's patronage might have been of consequence." He then told Dr. Adams, that Lord Chesterfield had shewn him the letter. "I should have imagined (replied Dr. Adams) that Lord Chesterfield would have concealed it." "Poh! (said Dodsley) do you think a letter from Johnson could hurt Lord Chesterfield? Not at all, Sir. It lay upon his table, where any body might see it. He read it to me; said, 'this man has great powers,' pointed out the severest passages, and observed how well they were expressed." This air of indifference, which imposed upon the worthy Dodsley, was certainly nothing but a specimen of that dissimulation which Lord Chesterfield inculcated as one of the most essential lessons for the conduct of life. His Lordship endeavoured to justify himself to Dodsley from the charges brought against him by Johnson; but we may judge of the flimsiness of his defence, from his having excused his neglect of Johnson, by saying, that "he had heard he had changed his lodgings, and did not know where he lived;" as if there could have been the smallest

Defensive pride

by enquiring in the literary circle v
Lordship was well acquainted, an
himself, one of its ornaments.

Dr. Adams expostulated with Joh
gested, that his not being admitted v
on him, was probably not to be im
Chesterfield; for his Lordship ha
Dodsley, that "he would have turne
servant he ever had, if he had known
him to a man who would have bee
than welcome;" and in confirmati
insisted on Lord Chesterfield's ge
and easiness of access, especially to
"Sir (said Johnson) that is not Lor
he is the proudest man this day exi
(said Dr. Adams) there is one pers
proud; I think, by your own accou
prouder man of the two." "But
Johnson instantly) was *defensive* pri
Dr. Adams well observed, was one
turns for which he was so remarkabl

Johnson having now explicitly avo
of Lord Chesterfield, did not refrain
ing himself concerning that noblema
freedom: "This man (said he) I th
a Lord among wits; but, I find, he
among Lords!"[1] And when his
natural son were published, he obser

[1] [Johnson's character of Chesterfield
tated from—*inter doctos nobilissimus, inter*
inter utrosque optimus; (ex Apuleio. v.
tion of Adages to Lord Mountjoy;) and
φιλόσοφοις, φιλόσοφος ἐν ἰδιώταις. Proc
KEARNEY.]

teach the morals of a whore, and the manners o
dancing-master." [1]

The character of a "respectable Hottentot,"
Lord Chesterfield's letters, has been generally und
stood to be meant for Johnson, and I have no do
that it was. But I remember when the *Liter*
Property of those letters was contested in the Co
of Session in Scotland, and Mr. Henry Dund
one of the counsel for the proprietors, read
character as an exhibition of Johnson, Sir Da

[1] That collection of letters cannot be vindicated f
the serious charge, of encouraging, in some passa
one of the vices most destructive to the good order
comfort of society, which his Lordship represent
mere fashionable gallantry; and, in others, of incul
ing the base practice of dissimulation, and recomm
ing, with disproportionate anxiety, a perpetual atten
to external elegance of manners. But it must, at
same time, be allowed, that they contain many g
precepts of conduct, and much genuine informa
upon life and manners, very happily expressed;
that there was considerable merit in paying so m
attention to the improvement of one who was depen
upon his Lordship's protection; it has, probably, l
exceeded in no instance by the most exemplary pare
and though I can by no means approve of confou
ing the distinction between lawful and illicit offspr
which is, in effect, insulting the civil establishmen
our country, to look no higher; I cannot help thi
ing it laudable to be kindly attentive to those, of wh
existence we have, in any way, been the cause.
Stanhope's character has been unjustly represented
diametrically opposite to what Lord Chesterfield wi
him to be. He has been called dull, gross, and aukw
but I knew him at Dresden, when he was Envoy to
court; and though he could not boast of the *grace*
was, in truth, a sensible, civil, well-behaved man.

[2] Now [1792] one of his Majesty's principal Secreta

Lord Bolingbroke

Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, o
tained, with some warmth, t
as a portrait of Johnson, bu
distinguished for abstruse s
Johnson himself talk of the
it was meant for George Lo
I could by no means agree
nothing of that violence w
feature in the composition.
trious friend could bear to
might be meant for him,
there was one trait which
belong to him; "he throv
but down his throat." "
Chesterfield never saw me e

On the 6th of March c
broke's works, published
The wild and pernicious r
of "Philosophy," which
the world, gave great offenc
men. Johnson, hearing of
nobody disputed, was rouse
tion, and pronounced this m
the noble authour and his e
scoundrel, and a coward: a
blunderbuss against religion a
because he had not resoluti
but left half a crown to a
draw the trigger after his d
I can attest from my own k
seasoned with pious revere
approved of the infidel wri
in the course of his almost u

civility, distinguished himself upon this occasion Mr. Pelham having died on the very day on which Lord Bolingbroke's works came out, he wrote an elegant Ode on his death, beginning

"Let others hail the rising sun,
I bow to that whose course is run;"

in which is the following stanza:

"The same sad morn, to Church and State
(So for our sins, 'twas fix'd by fate,)
A double stroke was given;
Black as the whirlwinds of the North,
St. John's fell genius issued forth,
And Pelham fled to heaven."

Johnson this year found an interval of leisure to make an excursion to Oxford, for the purpose of consulting the libraries there. Of this, and of many interesting circumstances concerning him, during that part of his life when he conversed but little with the world, I am enabled to give a particular account by the liberal communications of the Reverend Mr. Thomas Warton, who obligingly furnished me with several of our common friend's letters, which I have illustrated with notes. These I shall insert in their proper places.

"To the Reverend Mr. Thomas Warton.

"SIR,

"It is but an ill return for the book with which you were pleased to favour me,[1] to have

[1] Observations on Spenser's Fairy Queen, the first edi-

Letter to Thomas Warton

delayed my thanks for it
to be negligent; but I ca
my disrespect to a man
now pay you a very honest
advancement of the literat
You have shewn to all, w
the study of our ancient
cess; by directing them t
which those authours had
Hughes,[1] and men much g
never to have thought.
thours, which are yet read
are so little understood, is,
and no help is borrowed f
them, or before them. S
I hope to remove by my
towards its end; but whi
mind, without visiting the
I therefore hope to see in
how long I shall stay, or
shall be sure to look for
shall easily settle the rest.
"Y

"[London] July 16, 1754."

Of his conversation wh
Mr. Warton preserved a

1 "Hughes published an
2 "His Dictionary."
3 "He came to Oxford w
about five weeks. He lodg
hall, near Trinity College.
Oxford, he collected nothi

morial, which, though not written
and attention which that learned
r bestowed on those compositions
d for the publick eye, is so happily
easy style, that I should injure it
:

Johnso
visits
Pem-
broke
Colleg

on came to Oxford in 1754, the
beginning, and most people were
. This was the first time of his
r quitting the University. The
r his arrival, he wished to see his
broke. I went with him. He
d to find all the College-servants
t there still remaining, particularly
; and expressed great satisfaction
ed by them, and conversed with
He waited on the master, Dr.
ceived him very coldly. Johnson
l, that the master would order a
ionary, now near publication; but
ot choose to talk on the subject,
son to dine, nor even to visit him,
t Oxford. After we had left the
a said to me, '*There* lives a man,
revenues of literature, and will not
support it. If I come to live at
take up my abode at Trinity.'
on the Reverend Mr. Meeke, one
nd of Johnson's standing. Here
dial greeting on both sides. On
nson said, 'I used to think Meeke
rts, when we were boys together
ut, alas!

Recollections of student life

'I remember, at the classical le
could not bear Meeke's superio
sit as far from him as I could
hear him construe.'

"As we were leaving the Coll
I translated Pope's Messiah. V
is the best line in it?—My own

'*Vallis aromaticas fundit S*

I told him, I thought it a very s
I did not tell him, it was not in
He much regretted that his *fir*
for whom he seemed to retain
He said, 'I once had been a wh
in Christ-Church meadows, and
logick. After dinner he sent fo
I expected a sharp rebuke for m
with a beating heart. When v
told me he had sent for me to d
with him, and to tell me, he
me for missing his lecture. T
most severe reprimand. Some
were then sent for, and we sp
afternoon.' Besides Mr. Meek
one other Fellow of Pembroke
both of whom Johnson received
ties during this visit, and they
much to have a room in the Col

"In the course of this visit (
I walked three or four times to
beautifully situated about three
to see Mr. Wise, Radclivian lib
Johnson was much pleased.

manner, but with great taste. Here was an excel lent library, particularly a valuable collection of book in Northern literature, with which Johnson was ofte very busy. One day Mr. Wise read to us a disser tation which he was preparing for the press, intitled 'A History and Chronology of the fabulous Ages. Some old divinities of Thrace, related to the Titans and called the CABIRI, made a very important par of the theory of this piece; and in conversatio afterwards, Mr. Wise talked much of his CABIRI As we returned to Oxford in the evening, I out walked Johnson, and he cried out *Sufflamina*, Latin word, which came from his mouth witl peculiar grace, and was as much as to say, *Put o your drag chain*. Before we got home, I agai walked too fast for him; and he now cried out 'Why, you walk as if you were pursued by all th CABIRI in a body.' In an evening we frequentl took long walks from Oxford into the country returning to supper. Once, in our way home, w viewed the ruins of the abbies of Oseney and Rewley near Oxford. After at least half an hour's silence Johnson said, 'I viewed them with indignation! We had then a long conversation on Gothic build- ings; and in talking of the form of old halls, h said, 'In these halls, the fire-place was anciently always in the middle of the room, till the Whigs removed it on one side.'—About this time there had been an execution of two or three criminals a Oxford on a Monday. Soon afterwards, one day at dinner, I was saying that Mr. Swinton, the chap- lain of the gaol, and also a frequent preacher before the University, a learned man, but often thoughtless

Mr. Swinton's sermon

repentance, before the co
day, Sunday; and that in t
ence, that he should give
what he had to say on the
Day. Upon which, one
of Divinity, and a plain m
of offering an apology fo
remarked, that he had pr
sermon before the Unive
Johnson) but the Universi
the next morning.'

"I forgot to observe
Mr. Meeke, (as I have
'About the same time
behind at Oxford to feed
went to London to get
the difference of our litera

The following letter wa
to Mr. Chambers, of Linc
Robert Chambers, one of

To Mr. Chambers,

"DEAR SIR,

"The commission w
you with at your departu
send you; and beg that
carry it to Mr. Warton,
should have written imm
not if he be yet come bac

"In the Catalogue of M

I. pag. 18. MSS. Bodl. MARTYRIUM XV. *marty*
sub Juliano, auctore Theophylacto.

"It is desired that Mr. Warton will enquire,
send word, what will be the cost of transcribing
manuscript.

"Vol. II. p. 32. Num. 1022. 58. COLL. Nov
Commentaria in Acta Apostol.—Comment. in Se
Epistolas Catholicas.

"He is desired to tell what is the age of e
of these manuscripts: and what it will cost to h
a transcript of the two first pages of each.

"If Mr. Warton be not in Oxford, you may
if you can get it done by any body else; or stay
he comes according to your own convenience.
is for an Italian *literato.*

"The answer is to be directed to his Excelle
Mr. Zon, Venetian Resident, Soho-Square.

"I hope, dear Sir, that you do not regret
change of London for Oxford. Mr. Barett
well, and Miss Williams;[1] and we shall all
glad to hear from you, whenever you shall be
kind as to write to, Sir,

"Your most humble servant,

"SAM. JOHNSO

"Nov. 21, 1754."

[1] "I presume she was a relation of Mr. Zacha
Williams, who died in his eighty-third year, July
1755. When Dr. Johnson was with me at Oxf
in 1755, he gave to the Bodleian Library a thin qu
of twenty-one pages, a work in Italian, with an Eng
translation on the opposite page. The English t
page is this: "An Account of an Attempt to ascer
the Longitude at Sea, by an exact Variation of the M
netical Needle, &c. By Zachariah Williams. Lon

Letter to Thomas Warton

The degree of Master o
been observed, could not be
early period of his life, was
honour of considerable impo
the title-page of his Diction
in the literary world being
high, his friends thought th
were made, the University
him the compliment.

"To the Reverend Mr

"Dear Sir,

"I am extremely oblig
Wise, for the uncommon ca
of my interest;[1] if you ca
design, I shall certainly tak
among you.

"The books which I pr

from the strongest internal ma
work of Johnson. In a blank
the age, and time of death, o
as I have said above. On anot
paragraph from a news-paper,
of Williams, which is plainly
was very anxious about placing
and, for fear of any omission
the great Catalogue, the title
hand."

[In this statement there is
English account, which was
the *original;* the Italian was a
See *post*, 1755.—M.]

[1] "In procuring him the de

have not been able to procure: but I shall send a Finnick Dictionary, the only copy, perhaps England, which was presented me by a le Swede: but I keep it back, that it may make of my own books of the new edition, with w I shall accompany it, more welcome. You assure him of my gratitude.

"Poor dear Collins![1]—Would a letter give any pleasure? I have a mind to write.

Radclivian librarian, at Oxford. He was a man o considerable learning, and eminently skilled in R and Anglo-Saxon antiquities. He died in 1767."

[1] "Collins (the poet) was at this time at Oxfo a visit to Mr. Warton; but labouring under the deplorable languor of body, and dejection of mind.

[In a letter to Dr. Joseph Warton, written some m before, (March 8, 1754,) Dr. Johnson thus spea Collins:

"But how little can we venture to exult in any lectual powers or literary attainments, when we co the condition of poor Collins. I knew him a few ago full of hopes, and full of projects, versed in languages, high in fancy, and strong in retention. busy and forcible mind is now under the governm those, who lately could not have been able to co hend the least and most narrow of his designs. do you hear of him? are there hopes of his reco or is he to pass the remainder of his life in miser degradation? perhaps, with complete consciousn his calamity."

In a subsequent letter to the same gentleman, 24, 1754,) he thus feelingly alludes to their unfort friend:

"Poor dear Collins! Let me know whether you it would give him pleasure if I should write to hi have often been *near* his state, and therefore have great commiseration."

Again—April 9, 1756:

Letters to Thomas Warton

"I am glad of your hindra
design,[1] yet I would not hav
hours a day stolen from slee
produce it. Let a Servitour
tions, and interleave them w
time. This will shorten th
fatigue.

"Can I do any thing to p
I would not be wanting to
kindness; of which, whateve
be, dear Sir, "Your mo

"[London,] Nov. 28, 1754."

To the S

"DEAR SIR,

"I AM extremely sensi
me, both by Mr. Wise and

letter which he never answere
very troublesome to him. Tha
The moralists all talk of the un
the transitoriness of beauty: b
to consider that the powers
liable to change, that understa
pearance and depart, that it ma

See Biographical Memoirs
Joseph Warton, by the Reverer
1806.

Mr. Collins, who was the son
was born December 25, 1720, a
dismal state here so pathetically

[1] "Of publishing a volume
best of Spenser's works. It w
pupils in this College."

[2] "Young students of the

cannot, I think, be printed in less than six v
nor probably so soon; and I will keep bac
title-page, for such an insertion as you see
promise me. Be pleased to let me know
money I shall send you for bearing the expe
the affair; and I will take care that you may
it ready at your hand.

"I had lately the favour of a letter from
brother, with some account of poor Collin
whom I am much concerned. I have a n
that by very great temperance, or more pro
abstinence, he may yet recover.

"There is an old English and Latin bo
poems by Barclay, called "The Ship of Fo
at the end of which are a number of *Eglogues*
he writes it, from *Egloga*,—which are probabl
first in our language. If you cannot find the
I will get Mr. Dodsley to send it you.

"I shall be extremely glad to hear from
again, to know, if the affair proceeds.[1] I
mentioned it to none of my friends, for fe
being laughed at for my disappointment.

"You know poor Mr. Dodsley has lost his
I believe he is much affected. I hope he wi
suffer so much as I yet suffer for the loss of n

Οἴμοι· τι δ' οἴμοι; θνητὰ γὰρ πεπόνθαμε

I have ever since seemed to myself broken off
mankind; a kind of solitary wanderer in the

[1] "Of the degree at Oxford."

[2] [This verse is taken from the long lost Beller
a tragedy by Euripides. It is preserved by Suidas
Lexicon, Voc. Οἴμοι, II. p. 666; where the readi

Calypso or Polypheme

of life, without any direction, or fixed
a gloomy gazer on the world to which
relation. Yet I would endeavour, by
you and your brother, to supply the v
union, by friendship: and hope to h
pleasure of being, dear Sir,

"Most affectionately y

"Sa

"[London] Dec. 21, 1754."

In 1755 we behold him to great ac
degree of Master of Arts conferred u
Dictionary published, his correspondei
his benevolence exercised.

"To the Reverend Mr. Thomas

"DEAR SIR,

"I WROTE to you some weeks ag
did not direct accurately, and therefo
whether you had my letter. I wou
write to your brother, but know not w
him. I now begin to see land, after
dered, according to Mr. Warburton
this vast sea of words. What recep
meet with on the shore, I know not;
sound of bells, and acclamations of
which Ariosto talks of in his last
general murmur of dislike, I know no
shall find upon the coast a Calypso th
or a Polypheme that will resist. But
comes, have at his eye. I hope,
criticks will let me be at peace; for

afraid of myself, and would not willingly fe
much ill-will in my bosom as literary quarrel
apt to excite.

"Mr. Baretti is about a work for which he
great want of Crescimbeni, which you may
again when you please.

"There is nothing considerable done or
among us here. We are not, perhaps, as inn
as villagers, but most of us seem to be as idl
hope, however, you are busy; and should be
to know what you are doing.

"I am, dearest Sir,

"Your humble serva

"SAM. JOHNS

"[London] Feb. 4, 1755."

TO THE SAME.

"DEAR SIR,

"I RECEIVED your letter this day, with
sense of the favour that has been done me;
which I return my most sincere thanks; and e
you to pay to Mr. Wise such returns as I oug
make for so much kindness so little deserved.

"I sent Mr. Wise the Lexicon, and after
wrote to him; but know not whether he had eith
book or letter. Be so good as to contrive to en

"But why does my dear Mr. Warton te
nothing of himself? Where hangs the new
ume?[2] Can I help? Let not the past labo

[1] "His degree had now past, according to the
form, the suffrages of the heads of Colleges; but w
yet finally granted by the University. It was
without a single dissentient voice."

Dr. King lost, for want of a little more: but
time you can from the Hall, and t
the coffee-house, and the parks, and
design. I am, dear Sir, &c.

"Sa

"[London] Feb. 4, 1755."

To the Same.

"DEAR SIR,

"I had a letter last week from
have yet heard nothing from you, nor
state my affair[1] stands; of which I beg
me, if you can, to-morrow, by the retu
"Mr. Wise sends me word, that h
the Finnick Lexicon yet, which I s
ago; and if he has it not, you must e
However, do not let your letter stay
"Your brother, who is a better
than you, and not much better, sends
your pupils keep you in College: but
you from writing too? Let them, at
time to write to, dear Sir,

"Your most affectio

"Sa

"[London] Feb. 13, 1755."

To the Same.

"DEAR SIR,

"Dr. King[2] was with me a fe
fore your letter; this, however, is th

[1] "Of the degree."
[2] "Principal of Saint Mary Hall a

in which your kind intentions to me have ever
frustrated.[1] I have now the full effect of you
and benevolence; and am far from thinking
slight honour, or a small advantage; since it
put the enjoyment of your conversation more
quently in the power of, dear Sir,

"Your most obliged and affectiona

"SAM. JOHNS

"P. S. I have enclosed a letter to the
Chancellor,[2] which you will read; and, if you
it, seal and give him.

"[London] Feb. 1755."

As the Publick will doubtless be pleased t
the whole progress of this well-earned acade
honour, I shall insert the Chancellor of Oxf
letter to the University,[3] the diploma, and John
letter of thanks to the Vice-Chancellor.

"*To the Reverend Dr.* HUDDESFORD, Vice-C
cellor *of the* University *of* Oxford; *to be com
cated to the Heads of Houses, and propos
Convocation.*

"MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, AND GENTLEMEN,

"MR. SAMUEL JOHNSON, who was forme
Pembroke College, having very eminently d

[1] "I suppose Johnson means that my *kind inten*
being the *first* to give him the good news of the
being granted was *frustrated*, because Dr. King br
it before my intelligence arrived."

[2] "Dr. Huddesford, President of Trinity Colleg

Diploma Magistri Johnson

guished himself by the publication
Essays, excellently calculated to for
of the people, and in which the ca
and morality is every where mai
strongest powers of argument and
who shortly intends to publish a Di
English Tongue, formed on a new
cuted with the greatest labour and
persuade myself that I shall act ag
sentiments of the whole University,
it may be proposed in convocation to
the degree of Master of Arts by dip
I readily give my consent; and am,

"Mr. Vice-Chancellor, and G

"Your affectionate friend

"Grosvenor-street, Feb. 4, 1755."

Term. Scti. Hilarii. 1755.

"DIPLOMA MAGISTRI

"*CANCELLARIUS, Magistr*
Universitatis Oxoniensis omnibus ad q
scriptum pervenerit, salutem in Domin

"*Cùm eum in finem gradus acade*
nostris instituti fuerint, ut viri ingé
præstantes titulis quoque præter cætero
cùmque vir doctissimus Samuel Joh
Pembrochiensi, scriptis suis populariu
mantibus dudum literato orbi innotuer
guæ patriæ tum ornandæ tum stabil
scilicet Anglicanum summo studio, sum
congestum propediem editurus) etiam

et Scholares antedicti, nè virum de literis humanior optimè meritum diutius inhonoratum prætereamus, solenni Convocatione Doctorum, Magistrorum, Reg tium, et non Regentium, decimo die Mensis Febru Anno Domini Millesimo Septingentesimo Quinquages quinto habitâ, præfatum virum Samuelem John (*conspirantibus omnium suffragiis*) *Magistrum Artibus renunciavimus et constituimus; eumque, tute præsentis diplomatis, singulis juribus privilegii honoribus ad istum gradum quàquà pertinentibus et gaudere jussimus.*

"*In cujus rei testimonium sigillum Universit Oxoniensis præsentibus apponi fecimus.*

"*Datum in Domo nostræ Convocationis die Mensis Feb. Anno Dom. prædicto.*

"*Diploma supra scriptum per Registrarium lec erat, et ex decreto venerabilis Domûs communi U versitatis sigillo munitum.*"[1]

"*Londini. 4to Cal. Mart.* 17

"VIRO REVERENDO - - - - HUDDESFORD, S. T. UNIVERSITATIS OXONIENSIS VICE-CANCELLA DIGNISSIMO, S. P. D.

"SAM. JOHNSON.[2]

"*INGRATUS planè et tibi et mihi videar, quanto me gaudio affecerint, quos nuper mihi hon (te, credo, auctore,) decrevit Senatus Academi literarum, quo tamen nihil levius, officio, significe*

[1] The original is in my possession.

[2] [The superscription of this letter was not quite c rect in the early editions of this work. It is here gi

Dr. Maty

Dr. Adams told me, that
thèque was a serious one : f
one day, he found his par
parcels of foreign and Engl
he told Dr. Adams he mean
" How, Sir, (said Dr. Ad
doing it alone? All branch
considered in it. Do you kn
you know Natural History
" Why, Sir, I must do as v
purpose is to give my count
doing in literature upon th
have, in a good measure, th
for I shall select such book
Dr. Adams suggested, tha
then finished his *Bibliothèqu*
a well-executed work, givi
of British publications, he n
age assume him as an assis
son) the little black dog !
Thames." The scheme,

In one of his little memo
following hints for his inter
Journal : " *The Annals of L*
as domestick. Imitate Le
rac. Infelicity of Journal
of the learned.' We canno
copy from foreign Journali

" To Dr.

" SIR,

" I HAVE sent some
such as were at hand, for

beg is, that if you do not like them, Dr. E
hing. I am, Sir,
most affectionate humble servant,
"SAM. JOHNSON."

MR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

Norfolk-street, April 23, 1755.
of your Dictionary which you have
n the sight of has given me such an
le, that I most sincerely congratu-
upon the acquisition of a work long
r executed with an industry, accu-
ient, equal to the importance of the
night, perhaps, have chosen one in
ius would have appeared to more
ou could not have fixed upon any
our labours would have done such
e to the present age and to posterity.
our health has supported the appli-
to the performance of so vast a
undertake to promise you as one
the only) reward of it, the appro-
s of every well-wisher to the honour
anguage. I am, with the greatest

most faithful and
Most affectionate humble servant,
"THO. BIRCH."

Burney, who has since distinguished
n in the science of Musick, and
or's degree from the University of
n driven from the capital by bad

Dr. Burney

Norfolk. He had been so mu
Johnson's Rambler, and the plan
that when the great work was
news-papers as nearly finished,
Johnson, begging to be informed
manner his Dictionary would be
ing, if it should be by subscrip
have any books at his own dispo
with six copies for himself and f

In answer to this application,
the following letter, of which (t
own words) "if it be remem
written to an obscure young ma
had not much distinguished hims
profession, but whose name could
the authour of THE RAMBLER,
urbanity may be opposed to s
which have been lately circulate
natural rudeness and ferocity."

"TO MR. BURNEY, IN LYNNE

"SIR,

"IF you imagine that by
I intended to show any neglect
which you have favoured me, yo
justly of yourself nor of me.
offered with too much elegance
tion; and I have too much pleas
like you, not to feel very sens
which you have bestowed upon

"Few consequences of my e
or to benefit mankind, have deli

I have it I hope to keep, because I hope to conti
to deserve it.

"I have no Dictionaries to dispose of for mys
but shall be glad to have you direct your friends
Mr. Dodsley, because it was by his recommendat
that I was employed in the work.

"When you have leisure to think again upon
let me be favoured with another letter; and anot
yet, when you have looked into my Dictionary.
you find faults, I shall endeavour to mend the
if you find none, I shall think you blinded by k
partiality: but to have made you partial in his favo
will very much gratify the ambition of, Sir,

"Your most obliged

"And most humble servant,

"SAM. JOHNSO

"Gough-square, Fleet-street,
"April 8, 1755."

Mr. Andrew Millar, bookseller in the Stra
took the principal charge of conducting the publi
tion of Johnson's Dictionary; and as the patie
of the proprietors was repeatedly tried and alm
exhausted, by their expecting that the work wo
be compleated, within the time which Johnson
sanguinely supposed, the learned author was of
goaded to dispatch, more especially as he had
ceived all the copy money, by different drafts
considerable time before he had finished his ta
When the messenger who carried the last sheet
Millar returned, Johnson asked him, "Well, w
did he say?"—"Sir, (answered the messeng
he said, thank GOD I have done with him."

Mr. Millar and Mr. Strahan

thanks God for any thing."[1] I
that those with whom Johnson cl
for his literary labours were Scotch
and Mr. Strahan. Millar, though
judge of literature, had good sense
for his friends very able men, to
opinion and advice in the purchas
the consequence of which was his
large fortune, with great liberality
of him, "I respect Millar, Sir; h
price of literature." The same
justly given to Panckoucke, the em
of Paris. Mr. Strahan's liberality,
success, are well known.

"To Bennet Langton, Esq.
near Spilsby, Lincoln

"Sir,

"It has been long observed,
suspect faults which they do not
own elegance of manners, and pun
plaisance, did not suffer you to im
negligence of which I was guilty, a
not since atoned. I received both
received them with pleasure prop
esteem which so short an acqua
impressed, and which I hope to co

[1] Sir John Hawkins, p. 341, inse
having passed formally between An
Johnson, to the above effect. I am
not the case. In the way of incident
a pleasant play of raillery. To have de

knowledge, though I am afraid that gratifica
will be for a time withheld.

"I have, indeed, published my Book,[1] of wh
I beg to know your father's judgement, and yo
and I have now staid long enough to watch its
gress in the world. It has, you see, no patr
and, I think, has yet had no opponents, except
criticks of the coffee-house, whose outcries are
dispersed into the air, and are thought on no m
from this, therefore, I am at liberty, and thin
taking the opportunity of this interval to mak
excursion, and why not then into Lincolnshire?
to mention a stronger attraction, why not to
Mr. Langton? I will give the true reason, whi
know you will approve:—I have a mother more
eighty years old, who has counted the days to
publication of my book, in hopes of seeing me; an
her, if I can disengage myself here, I resolve to

"As I know, dear Sir, that to delay my
for a reason like this, will not deprive me of
esteem, I beg it may not lessen your kindness.
have very seldom received an offer of friend
which I so earnestly desire to cultivate and mat
I shall rejoice to hear from you, till I can see
and will see you as soon as I can; for when
duty that calls me to Lichfield is discharged,
inclination will carry me to Langton. I
delight to hear the ocean roar, or see the
twinkle, in the company of men to whom Na
does not spread her volumes or utter her voice in

"Do not, dear Sir, make the slowness of
letter a precedent for delay, or imagine that I
proved the incivility that I have committed; f

Letters to Thomas Warton

have known you enough to love
to wish a further knowledge; and
more, that to live in a house tha
father and such a son, will be
uncommon degree of pleasure, by

"Your most oblig

"And most

"May 6, 1755."

"To the Reverend Mr. Th

"DEAR SIR,

"I am grieved that you
capable of neglecting your lette
will never admit any such suspici
pose to come down next week
there; or any other week, tha
agreeable to you. Therefore I
can stay this visit but a week; b
preparations for a longer stay nex
solved not to lose sight of the
goes Apollonius?[1] Don't let
Some things of this kind must
us up. Pay my compliments t
all my other friends. I think t
Hall.[2] I am, Sir,

"Your most

"[London] May 13, 1755."

[1] "A translation of Apollonius R
tended by Mr. Warton."

[2] [Kettel-Hall is an ancient tene

To the Same.

SIR,

is strange how many things will happen pt every pleasure, though it [be] only o friends meeting together. I have pro- self every day to inform you when you ect me at Oxford, and have not been a time. The time, however, is, I think, me; and I promise myself to repose in ll, one of the first nights of the next am afraid my stay with you cannot be what is the inference? We must en- make it chearful. I wish your brother t us, that we might go and drink tea with in a body. I hope he will be at Oxford, est of British and Saxon antiquities.[1] I ct to see Spenser finished, and many other un. Dodsley is gone to visit the Dutch. onary sells well. The rest of the world it did. Dear Sir,

"Your most affectionate, &c.

"Sam. Johnson."

June 10, 1755."

tel, then President, for the accommodation ers of that Society. In this ancient *hostel*, very ruinous state, about forty years after d lodged there, Mr. Windham and the pre- were accommodated with two chambers, of mplicity, during the installation of the Duke l as Chancellor of the University of Oxford, t has since been converted into a commodious

Letters to Thomas Warton

TO THE

"DEAR SIR,

"To talk of coming come, has an air of triflin willingly have among you; you will not willingly imput told you, that since my pro ners[1] are dead, and that pend my excursion till we confusion.

"I have not laid aside day makes me more impati But death, you know, hear pays any regard to the con hope now to see you next w but another name for to-m noted for promising and dec

"[London] June 24, 1755."

TO THE

"DEAR SIR,

"I TOLD you that am some things of Sir Thoma pass an hour in looking o transcript of the ten or twe be compared with what I whether they are yet publis are these:

"Catalogue of Bodl. M Thomas More.

ıll of angels. 2. Creation and fall of
3. Determination of the Trinity for
ıe of mankind. 4. Five lectures of our
passion. 5. Of the institution of the
ıt, three lectures. 6. How to receive the
ody of our Lord sacramentally. 7. Neo-
e new moon. 8. *De tristitia, tædio, pavore,*
Christi ante captionem ejus.
logue, pag. 154. Life of Sir Thomas
Qu. Whether Roper's? Pag. 363. *De*
ne Magni Sigilli in manus Regis per D.
Morum. Pag. 364. *Mori Defensio*

ou procure the young gentleman in the
write out what you think fit to be written,
nd to Mr. Prince the bookseller to pay
you shall think proper.
pleased to make my compliments to Mr.
d all my friends. I am, Sir,

"Your affectionate, &c.

"SAM. JOHNSON."

] Aug. 7, 1755."

Dictionary, with a Grammar and History
English Language, being now at length
, in two volumes folio, the world contem-
th wonder so stupendous a work atchieved
an, while other countries had thought such

The Preface praised

glowing style, a comprehensive, ye
of what he had done; and it
that the time he employed upon
tively short. I am unwilling to
with long quotations from what is
hands, and I believe there are few
tions in the English language tha
more delight, or are more impr
memory, than that preliminary dis
its excellencies has always struck
admiration; I mean the perspicuit
has expressed abstract scientifick
instance of this, I shall quote the fo
"When the radical idea branches
ramifications, how can a consecutive
of senses in their own nature co
have here an example of what has
and I believe with justice, that th
thought a certain nice adaptation
none other could equal, and whi
has been so fortunate as to hit, he
that particular case, the perfection

The extensive reading which
necessary for the accumulation of
which alone may account for Jo
mind being enriched with a very
store of knowledge and imagery,
pied several years. The Pref
eminent instance of a double talent
son was fully conscious. Sir
heard him say, "There are two th
confident I can do very well: on
tion to any literary work, stating

perfect manner: the other is a conclusion, shew
from various causes why the execution has not b
equal to what the authour promised to himself
to the publick."

How should puny scribblers be abashed and
appointed, when they find him displaying a perf
theory of lexicographical excellence, yet at
same time candidly and modestly allowing that
"had not satisfied his own expectations." H
was a fair occasion for the exercise of Johnso
modesty, when he was called upon to compare
own arduous performance, not with those of ot
individuals, (in which case his inflexible reg
to truth would have been violated had he affec
diffidence,) but with speculative perfection; as
who can outstrip all his competitors in the ra
may yet be sensible of his deficiency when he r
against time. Well might he say, that "the En
lish Dictionary was written with little assistance
the learned;" for he told me, that the only
which he received was a paper containing twe
etymologies, sent to him by a person then unknow
who he was afterwards informed was Dr. Pear
Bishop of Rochester. The etymologies, thou
they exhibit learning and judgement, are not,
think, entitled to the first praise amongst the vario
parts of this immense work. The definitions ha
always appeared to me such astonishing proofs

Erroneous definitions

Books, as the Dutch call them. make the experiment of trying ho a few words of whatever nature, fied of the unquestionable justice tion, which I can assure my reade much study, and upon communi minds than my own.

A few of his definitions must erroneous. Thus, *Windward* and directly of opposite meaning, are the same way ;[1] as to which inc it is enough to observe, that his that he was aware there might be immense a work ; nor was he a when an instance was pointed out once asked him how he came to *knee* of a horse: instead of ma defence, as she expected, he a "Ignorance, Madam, pure ignora nition of *Network* has been often tive malignity, as obscuring a th plain. But to these frivolous c answer is necessary than that wi furnished by his own Preface. quires the use of terms less abstrus is to be explained, and such terms found. For as nothing can be pr posing something intuitively kn without proof, so nothing can be

[1] [He owns in his Preface the defi nical part of his work ; and he said, obliged to me for definitions of mu next edition, which he did not live

use of words too plain to admit of definition. Som
times easier words are changed into harder; a
burial, into *sepulture* or *interment*; *dry*, into *des*
cative; *dryness*, into *siccity* or *aridity*; *fit*, in
paroxism; for, the *easiest* word, whatever it b
can never be translated into one more easy."

His introducing his own opinions, and even pr
judices, under general definitions of words, while
the same time the original meaning of the wor
is not explained, as his *Tory*, *Whig*, *Pension*, *Oa*
Excise,[1] and a few more, cannot be fully defende
and must be placed to the account of capricious a

[1] He thus defines Excise: "A hateful tax levied up
commodities, and adjudged not by the common judges
property, but wretches hired by those to whom Exc
is paid." The Commissioners of Excise being offend
by this severe reflection, consulted Mr. Murray, th
Attorney-General, to know whether redress could
legally obtained. I wished to have procured for
readers a copy of the opinion which he gave, and whi
may now be justly considered as history: but the m
terious secresy of office it seems would not permit it.
am, however, informed, by very good authority, that
import was, that the passage might be considered
actionable; but that it would be more prudent in
board not to prosecute. Johnson never made the small
alteration in this passage. We find he still retained
early prejudice against Excise; for in "The Idler, N
65," there is the following very extraordinary paragrap
"The authenticity of *Clarendon's* history, though prin

"Grub-street" and "Lexicographer" defined

humorous indulgence. Talkin
subject when we were at Ash
mentioned a still stronger instar
nance of his private feelings in
this work, than any now to be
know, Sir, Lord Gower forso
interest. When I came to t
after telling that it meant 'one
enemy, a revolter,' I added,
Gower. Thus it went to the p
had more wit than I, and struc

Let it, however, be remembe
gence does not display itself onl
others, but sometimes in play
notions commonly entertained c
task. Thus: "*Grub-street*, th
London, much inhabited by w
tories, *dictionaries*, and tempora
any mean production is cal
"*Lexicographer*, a writer of di
drudge."

At the time when he was com
quent Preface, Johnson's mind
in such a state of depression,
template without wonder the v
thoughts which so highly distin
ance. "I (says he) may surel
out the praise of perfection, wh
in this gloom of solitude, what
I have protracted my work till
I wished to please have sunk
success and miscarriage are emp
fore dismiss it with frigid tran
to fear or hope from censure or

this indifference was rather a temporary tha
habitual feeling, appears, I think, from his l
to Mr. Warton; and however he may have
affected for the moment, certain it is that the ho
which his great work procured him, both at
and abroad, were very grateful to him. His f
the Earl of Corke and Orrery, being at Flor
presented it to the *Academia della Crusca.*
Academy sent Johnson their *Vocabolario*, an
French Academy sent him their *Diction*
which Mr. Langton had the pleasure to c
to him.

It must undoubtedly seem strange, that the
clusion of his Preface should be expressed in
so desponding, when it is considered that the au
was then only in his forty-sixth year. But we
ascribe its gloom to that miserable dejection of
to which he was constitutionally subject, and
was aggravated by the death of his wife two
before. I have heard it ingeniously observed
lady of rank and elegance, that "his melan
was then at its meridian." It pleased G
grant him almost thirty years of life after this
and once when he was in a placid frame of
he was obliged to own to me that he had en
happier days, and had many more friends,
that gloomy hour, than before.

It is a sad saying, that "most of those wh

Friendship should be kept in repair

that the loss of some may be s
Friendship, "the wine of life," s
stocked cellar, be thus continually
is consolatory to think, that althou
add what will equal the generou
our youth, yet friendship become
much less time than is commo
not many years are required to m
and pleasant. *Warmth* will, no d
siderable difference. Men of affec
bright fancy will coalesce a grea
those who are cold and dull.

The proposition which I have
to illustrate was, at a subsequent
the opinion of Johnson himself.
Joshua Reynolds, "If a man do
acquaintance as he advances thr
soon find himself left alone. A
keep his friendship *in constant rep*

The celebrated Mr. Wilkes, v
habits of life were very opposite t
ever eminent for literature and viv
with a little *Jeu d'Esprit* upon the
in his Grammar of the English T
the Dictionary: "*H* seldom, per
any but the first syllable." In a
"the Publick Advertiser," this li
rated many instances in oppositio
for example, "The authour o
must be a man of a quick *appre*
most *compre-hensive* genius." T
doubtedly expressed with too muc

This light sally, we may suppo

he did not alter the passage till many years afte
wards.[1]

He had the pleasure of being treated in a ve
different manner by his old pupil Mr. Garrick,
the following complimentary Epigram:

"*On* JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY.

"TALK of war with a Briton, he'll boldly advanc
That one English soldier will beat ten of Franc
Would we alter the boast from the sword to the pe
Our odds are still greater, still greater our mer
In the deep mines of science though Frenchm
may toil,
Can their strength be compar'd to Locke, Ne
ton, and Boyle?
Let them rally their heroes, send forth all th
pow'rs,
Their verse-men and prose-men, then mat
them with ours!
First Shakspeare and Milton, like Gods in t
fight,
Have put their whole drama and epick to fligh
In satires, epistles, and odes, would they cope,
Their numbers retreat before Dryden and Pop
And Johnson, well-arm'd like a hero of yore,
Has beat forty French,[2] and will beat for
more!"

Zachariah Williams

Johnson this year gave at on benevolence, quickness of appreh able art of composition, in the a gave to Mr. Zachariah Williams, lady whom he had humanely recei Mr. Williams had followed the pr in Wales; but having a very stron study of natural philosophy, had nious advances towards a discover and repaired to London in hope great parliamentary reward. He but Johnson having made himself ciples and experiments, wrote fo published in quarto, with the foll Account of an Attempt to ascer at Sea, by an exact Theory of th Magnetical Needle; with a Tabl at the most remarkable Cities in year 1660 to 1860." † To diff sively, it was accompanied with tion on the opposite page, which it work of Signor Baretti,[1] an Itali literature, who having come to E before, had been employed in th a language master and an autho intimacy with Dr. Johnson. Th son presented to the Bodleian Lib

[1] [This ingenious foreigner, who mont, came to England about the ye London, May 5, 1789. A very c account of him and his works, words, "So much asperity," and wi by a distinguished dignitary in the c in the Gentleman's Magazine, for tha

leaf of it is pasted a paragraph cut out of
newspaper, containing an account of the de
and character of Williams, plainly written
Johnson.[1]

In July this year he had formed some scheme
mental improvement, the particular purpose of wh
does not appear. But we find in his "Prayers a
Meditations," p. 25, a prayer entitled, "On
Study of Philosophy, as an instrument of living
and after it follows a note, "This study was
pursued."

On the 13th of the same month he wrote in
Journal the following scheme of life, for Sunda
"Having lived" (as he with tenderness of c
science expresses himself) "not without an ha
tual reverence for the Sabbath, yet without t
attention to its religious duties which Christian
requires;"

"1. To rise early, and in order to it, to go
sleep early on Saturday.

"2. To use some extraordinary devotion in
morning.

"3. To examine the tenour of my life, and p

appears that "12th" in the next note means the 12th
July, 1755.—M.]

[1] "On Saturday the 12th, about twelve at night, c
Mr. Zachariah Williams, in his eighty-third year, a
an illness of eight months, in full possession of his me
faculties. He has been long known to philosophers
seamen for his skill in magnetism, and his proposal
ascertain the longitude by a peculiar system of the va
tion of the compass. He was a man of industry in
fatigable, of conversation inoffensive, patient of adver
and disease, eminently sober, temperate, and pious;
worthy to have ended life with better fortune."

Pecuniary distress

ticularly the last week; ar
in religion, or recession fro

"4. To read the Scri
such helps as are at hand.

"5. To go to church t

"6. To read books of
lative or practical.

"7. To instruct my fan

"8. To wear off by me
contracted in the week."

In 1756 Johnson found
his Dictionary had not set
of "making provision for
over him."[1] No royal or
munificent hand to give i
who had conferred stabilit
country. We may feel in
have been such unworthy
the same time, congratulate
sider, that to this very ne
the natural indolence of
many valuable production
haps, might never have ap

He had spent, during th
the money for which he h

[1] [He was so far from bei
of making provision for the
him," that he appears to hav
pecuniary distress, having
which occasion his friend,
his surety. See a letter fro
subject, dated Feb. 19, 1756.

Dictionary. We have seen that the reward of hi labour was only fifteen hundred and seventy-fiv pounds; and when the expence of amanuenses an paper, and other articles, are deducted, his clea profit was very inconsiderable. I once said to him "I am sorry, Sir, you did not get more for you Dictionary." His answer was, "I am sorry too But it was very well. The booksellers are generou liberal-minded men." He, upon all occasions, di ample justice to their character in this respect. H considered them as the patrons of literature; and indeed, although they have eventually been con siderable gainers by his Dictionary, it is to the that we owe its having been undertaken and carrie through at the risk of great expence, for they wer not absolutely sure of being indemnified.

On the first day of this year[1] we find from h private devotions, that he had then recovered fro sickness,[2] and in February, that his eye was restore to its use.[3] The pious gratitude with which h acknowledges mercies upon every occasion is ver edifying; as is the humble submission which h breathes, when it is the will of his heavenly Fath

[1] [In April in this year, Johnson wrote a letter Dr. Joseph Warton, in consequence of having read a fe pages of that gentleman's newly published "Essay the Genius and Writings of Pope." The only paragra in it that respects Johnson's personal history is thi "For my part I have not lately done much. I have be ill in the winter, and my eye has been inflamed; but please myself with the hopes of doing many things, wi which I have long pleased and deceived myself!" M moirs of Dr. J. Warton, &c. 4to. 1806.—M.]

The Universal Visiter

to try him with afflictions. become the state of man her effects of religious discipline, rate in Johnson one of the m that our holy religion hath ev be any thoughtless enough to s the weakness of a great und look up to Johnson, and be he so earnestly practised must dation.

His works this year were, a in octavo, of his folio Diction in a monthly publication, entitl Visiter." Christopher Smart vacillation of mind he sincere one of the stated undertakers and it was to assist him that employed his pen. All the two *asterisks* have been ascrib confident, from internal evid neither "The Life of Chauc the State of Portugal," nor a tecture," were written by him fident, upon the same evide "Further Thoughts on Agric sequel of a very inferiour essay and which, though carried o hand, is both in thinking ar above it, and so strikingly pe doubt of its true parent; an "A Dissertation on the Stat Authours," † and "A Dissert written by Pope." * The las

truly written by him are marked in the same ma
with some which he did not write, I cannot
plain; but with deference to those who have ascr
to him the three essays which I have rejected,
want all the characteristical marks of Johnso
composition.

He engaged also to superintend and contri
largely to another monthly publication, enti
"The Literary Magazine, or Universal
view;"* the first number of which came ou
May this year. What were his emoluments f
this undertaking, and what other writers were
ployed in it, I have not discovered. He contin
to write in it, with intermissions, till the fifte
number; and I think that he never gave be
proofs of the force, acuteness, and vivacity of
mind, than in this miscellany, whether we c
sider his original essays, or his reviews of
works of others. The "Preliminary Address
to the publick, is a proof how this great
could embellish, with the graces of super
composition, even so trite a thing as the pla
a magazine.

His original essays are, "An Introduction to
Political State of Great Britain;"† "Rem
on the Militia Bill;"† "Observations on his
tannick Majesty's Treaties with the Empres
Russia and the Landgrave of Hesse Cassel;
"Observations on the Present State of Affairs;
and, "Memoirs of Frederick III. King of P
sia."† In all these he displays extensive poli
knowledge and sagacity, expressed with uncom
energy and perspicuity, without any of those w

Reviews of books

imitation of Sir Thomas Browne; c
tian Morals" he this year gave an
"Life" * prefixed to it, which is
best biographical performances.
only in these essays has he indulge
Dr. Robertson, the historian, men
as having at once convinced him t
the authour of the "Memoirs of th
sia." Speaking of the pride whi
the father of his hero, took in bei
tallest regiment in Europe, he sa
this *towering* regiment was his dai
to perpetuate it was so much his ca
met a tall woman he immediately
of his *Titanian* retinue to marry her
propagate procerity." For this An
procerity, Johnson had, however,
Addison.

His reviews are of the following
History of the Royal Society;
Gray's-Inn Journal;" † "Warto
Writings and Genius of Pope, Vol.
ton's Translation of Polybius;"
Memoirs of the Court of Augustus
Natural History of Aleppo;" † "
ton's Arguments in Proof of a D
lase's History of the Isles of Scilly
Experiments on Bleaching;" † "
tian Morals;" † "Hales on distil
Ventilators in Ships, and curing
Milk;" † "Lucas's Essay on Wate
Catalogue of the Scottish Bishops;
History of Jamaica;" † "Philoso

lation of Sully's Memoirs;" * "Miscellanies
Elizabeth Harrison;" † "Evans's Map and Accou
of the Middle Colonies in America;" † "Let
on the Case of Admiral Byng;" * "Appeal to t
People concerning Admiral Byng;" * "Hanwa
Eight Days Journey, and Essay on Tea;" * "T
Cadet, a Military Treatise;" † "Some furth
Particulars in Relation to the Case of Admi
Byng, by a Gentleman of Oxford;" * "The Co
duct of the Ministry relating to the present W
impartially examined;" † "A Free Inquiry i
the Nature and Origin of Evil." * All these, fr
internal evidence, were written by Johnson: so
of them I know he avowed, and have marked th
with an *asterisk* accordingly. Mr. Thomas Dav
indeed, ascribed to him the Review of Mr. Burk
"Inquiry into the Origin of our ideas of the Subli
and Beautiful;" and Sir John Hawkins, with eq
discernment, has inserted it in his collection
Johnson's works: whereas it has no resembla
to Johnson's composition, and is well known to h
been written by Mr. Murphy, who has acknowled
it to me and many others.

It is worthy of remark, in justice to Johnso
political character, which has been misrepresen
as abjectly submissive to power, that his "Obs
vations on the present State of Affairs," glow w
as animated a spirit of constitutional liberty as
be found any where. Thus he begins: "The ti
is now come, in which every Englishman expe
to be informed of the national affairs; and in wh
he has a right to have that expectation gratifi
For, whatever may be urged by Ministers, or th

Dr. Lucas ministers, concerning the necessity
our governours, and the presumpti
profane eyes into the recesses of p
that this reverence can be claimed
yet unexecuted, and projects suspe
tion. But when a design has end
or success, when every eye and ev
to general discontent, or general
then a proper time to disentang
illustrate obscurity; to shew by w
event was produced, and in what
to terminate; to lay down with dis
what rumour always huddles in
tion, or perplexes by indigested na
whence happiness or calamity is der
it may be expected; and honestly
people what inquiry can gather of t
jecture can estimate of the future."

Here we have it assumed as an
principle, that in this country the
superintendents of the conduct a
those by whom government is
the beneficial effect of which th
afforded an illustrious example, whe
all parts of the kingdom controul
attempt to introduce a new power
crown.

A still stronger proof of his pat
pears in his review of an "Essay on
Lucas," of whom, after describing
well known to the world for his d
power, when he thought it exer
of wrong, he thus speaks: "The

tion, in which they charge him with crimes of
they never intended to be called to the proo
oppressed him by methods equally irresistib
guilt and innocence.

"Let the man thus driven into exile, for l
been the friend of his country, be received in
other place as a confessor of liberty; and l
tools of power be taught in time, that they
rob, but cannot impoverish."

Some of his reviews in this Magazine are
short accounts of the pieces noticed, and I m
them only that Dr. Johnson's opinion of the
may be known; but many of them are examp
elaborate criticism, in the most masterly style
his review of the "Memoirs of the Court of A
tus," he has the resolution to think and speak
his own mind, regardless of the cant transm
from age to age, in praise of the ancient Ro
Thus: "I know not why any one but a schoo
in his declamation should whine over the Com
wealth of Rome, which grew great only b
misery of the rest of mankind. The Romans
others, as soon as they grew rich, grew co
and in their corruption sold the lives and free
of themselves, and of one another." Again
people, who while they were poor robbed
kind; and as soon as they became rich, r
one another." In his review of the Miscel
in prose and verse, published by Elizabeth H
son, but written by many hands, he gives an
nent proof at once of his orthodoxy and can
"The authours of the essays in prose seem gen
to have imitated, or tried to imitate, the co

Dr. Watts

ever, is not all their praise; th
add to her brightness of ima
sentiments. The poets have h
their eyes; a writer, who, if
first class of genius, compens
a ready application of his pow
of piety. The attempt to en
of romance in the decoration
think, first made by Mr. *B*
Theodora; but *Boyle's* philos
not allow him time for the
and the completion of the g
served for Mrs. *Rowe*. Dr.
the first who taught the Diss
speak like other men, by shew
gance might consist with piety.
both done honour to a better s
that charity which might well
be forgotten, and with which
world wish for communion. T
all the heresies of an age, to w
is become a favourite that the
hitherto detested!

"This praise the general int
quires to be given to writers wh
corrupt, who instruct and do
them all human eulogies are v
applauded by angels, and numb

His defence of tea against M
violent attack upon that elegant
age, shews how very well a man
upon the slightest subject, whe
Italians say, *con amore*: I supp

grant leaf than Johnson. The quantities whic
drank of it at all hours were so great, that his ne
must have been uncommonly strong, not to
been extremely relaxed by such an intemperate
of it. He assured me, that he never felt the
inconvenience from it; which is a proof that
fault of his constitution was rather a too great ter
of fibres, than the contrary. Mr. Hanway v
an angry answer to Johnson's review of his E
on Tea, and Johnson, after a full and delib
pause, made a reply to it; the only instanc
believe, in the whole course of his life, whe
condescended to oppose any thing that was wr
against him. I suppose when he thought of ar
his little antagonists, he was ever justly aware o
high sentiment of Ajax in Ovid:

"*Iste tulit pretium jam nunc certaminis hujus,*
Qui, cùm victus erit, mecum certasse feretur

But, indeed, the good Mr. Hanway laid himse
open to ridicule, that Johnson's animadversions
his attack were chiefly to make sport.

The generosity with which he pleads the
of Admiral Byng is highly to the honour o
heart and spirit. Though *Voltaire* affects t
witty upon the fate of that unfortunate of
observing that he was shot "*pour encourage
autres*," the nation has long been satisfied tha
life was sacrificed to the political fervour o
times. In the vault belonging to the Torri
family, in the church of Southill, in Bedford
there is the following Epitaph upon his monu

Jenyns's "Inquiry into the Origin of Evil"

"To the perpetual D
of publick Justi
The Honourable John
Admiral of the F
Fell a Martyr to p
Persecution,
March 14, in the Yea
when Bravery and L
were insufficient Sec
for the Life and Ho
A Naval Office

Johnson's most exquisite crit
Literary Magazine, and indeed
review of Soame Jenyns's "Inqui
of Evil." Jenyns was possessed
and a style eminently pure and ea
happily play with a light subject,
verse; but when he speculated o
cult and excruciating question, t
he "ventured far beyond his dep
ingly, was exposed by Johnson,
argument and brilliant wit. I re
late Mr. Bicknell's humourous
titled "The Musical Travels c
in which a slight attempt is
Johnson, was ascribed to Soam
(said Johnson) I thought I had
of it."

His triumph over Jenyns is thu
friend Mr. Courtenay in his "P
the literary and moral Character c
a performance of such merit, tha

I should echo the sentiments of men of the fi
taste loudly in its praise:

"When specious sophists with presumption scan
The source of evil hidden still from man;
Revive Arabian tales, and vainly hope
To rival St. John, and his scholar Pope:
Though metaphysicks spread the gloom of nigh
By reason's star he guides our aching sight;
The bounds of knowledge marks, and points t
way
To pathless wastes, where wilder'd sages stray
Where, like a farthing link-boy, Jenyns stands
And the dim torch drops from his feeble hands.

This year Mr. William Payne, brother of t
respectable bookseller of that name, published "A
Introduction to the Game of Draughts," to whi
Johnson contributed a Dedication to the Earl

[1] Some time after Dr. Johnson's death, there appea
in the news-papers and magazines an illiberal and pe
lant attack upon him, in the form of an Epitaph, un
the name of Mr. Soame Jenyns, very unworthy of t
gentleman, who had quietly submitted to the criti
lash while Johnson lived. It assumed, as characteristi
of him, all the vulgar circumstances of abuse which h
circulated amongst the ignorant. It was an unbecomi
indulgence of puny resentment, at a time when he hi
self was at a very advanced age, and had a near prosp
of descending to the grave. I was truly sorry for
for he was then become an avowed, and (as my L
Bishop of London, who had a serious conversation w
him on the subject, assures me) a sincere Christian.
could not expect that Johnson's numerous friends wo
patiently bear to have the memory of their master st
matized by no mean pen, but that, at least, one would

Draughts, cards and smoking

Rochford,* and a Preface,* bot
admirably adapted to the treatis
are prefixed. Johnson, I believe,
draughts after leaving College, by w
for it would have afforded him an i
relief from the melancholy which
often. I have heard him regret
learnt to play at cards; and the g
we know is peculiarly calculated to
without straining it. There is a
gravity in draughts which insensi
the mind; and, accordingly, the D
it, as they are of smoaking, of the s
of which, though he himself nev
had a high opinion.[1] Besides, the
some exercise of the faculties; a
Johnson wishing to dignify the subj
cation with what is most estimable
"Triflers may find or make any th

Epitaph was met in the same publick fi
in terms by no means soft, and such as
tion only could justify:

"EPITAPH,

Prepared for a creature not quite

"HERE lies a little ugly nauseous elf,
Who judging only from its wretch
Feebly attempted, petulant and vai
The 'Origin of Evil' to explain.
A mighty Genius at this elf displea
With a strong critick grasp the ur
For thirty years its coward spleen
Till in the dust the mighty Genius
Then stunk and fretted in expiring
And blink'd at Johnson with its las

nce it is the great characteristick of a wise man t
:e events in their causes, to obviate consequence
ıd ascertain contingencies, your Lordship wi
ıink nothing a trifle by which the mind is inure
› caution, foresight, and circumspection."

As one of the little occasional advantages whic
e did not disdain to take by his pen, as a ma
'hose profession was literature, he this year accepte
f a guinea from Mr. Robert Dodsley, for writin
ıe introduction to "The London Chronicle," a
vening news-paper; and even in so slight a pe
›rmance exhibited peculiar talents. This Chronic
till subsists, and from what I observed, when I wa
broad, has a more extensive circulation upon th
Continent than any of the English news-papers.
vas constantly read by Johnson himself; and it
ıut just to observe, that it has all along been di
inguished for good sense, accuracy, moderatio
ınd delicacy.

Another instance of the same nature has bee
:ommunicated to me by the Reverend Dr. Thom
Campbell, who has done himself considerable cred
›y his own writings. "Sitting with Dr. Johnso
›ne morning alone, he asked me if I had know
Dr. Madden, who was authour of the premiun
scheme [1] in Ireland. On my answering in th
ıffirmative, and also that I had for some years live

[1] [In the College of Dublin, four quarterly Examin
:ions of the students are held in each year, in vario
prescribed branches of literature and science; and pr
miums, consisting of books impressed with the Colle
Arms, are adjudged by Examiners (composed general
of the Junior Fellows,) to those who have most disti
guished themselves in the several classes, after a ve

Proposals for an edition of Shakspeare

in his neighbourhood, &c
when I returned to Irela
procure for him a poem
"Boulter's Monument."
why I wish for it, is this:
to London, he submitted
tion; and I remember I b
and might have blotted ma
the poem worse.[2] Howe
thankful, and very genero
guineas, *which was to me*

He this year resumed
edition of Shakspeare
Proposals of considerabl
shewed that he perfectly
of research such an unde

which has subsisted about
tended with the most benefic

Dr. Samuel Madden was
miums in that University.
the year 1734. He was also
DUBLIN SOCIETY for the enco
culture. In addition to the
are still annually given by t
Dr. Madden gave others fro
was usually called "Premiu

[1] [Dr. Hugh Boulter, A
Primate of Ireland. He di
time he was, for the thirte
Justices of that kingdom.
high terms of commendati
Philips.—J. BOSWELL.]

[2] [Dr. Madden wrote ver
fixed to Leland's Life of Ph
—KEARNEY.]

[3] They have been reprin

indolence prevented him from pursuing it with th diligence which alone can collect those scatter facts, that genius, however acute, penetrating, a luminous, cannot discover by its own force. It remarkable, that at this time his fancied activity w for the moment so vigorous, that he promised work should be published before Christmas, 17 Yet nine years elapsed before it saw the light. H throes in bringing it forth had been severe a remittent; and at last we may almost conclude th the Cæsarian operation was performed by the kn of Churchill, whose upbraiding satire, I dare s made Johnson's friends urge him to dispatch.

"He for subscribers baits his hook,
And takes your cash; but where's the boo
No matter where; wise fear, you know,
Forbids the robbing of a foe;
But what, to serve our private ends,
Forbids the cheating of our friends?"

About this period he was offered a living of co siderable value in Lincolnshire, if he were incli to enter into holy orders. It was a rectory in gift of Mr. Langton, the father of his much-val friend. But he did not accept of it; partly I beli from a conscientious motive, being persuaded t his temper and habits rendered him unfit for t assiduous and familiar instruction of the vulgar ignorant, which he held to be an essential duty i clergyman; and partly because his love of a L don life was so strong, that he would have thou himself an exile in any other place, particularl

Charles O'Connor

see his thoughts upon that sub
full force, may peruse the Adv

In 1757 it does not appear
thing, except some of those
rary Magazine, which have be
magazine, after Johnson cease
dually declined, though the po
gallican was added to it; a
expired. He probably pre
Shakspeare this year, and he
the subject of an address to
expedition to Rochfort, whi
one of his friends, I know
meeting. It is printed in th
zine for October 1785 as hi
marks of authenticity.

By the favour of Mr. Jo
of the Treasury, Dublin, I
of the following letter from
able authour of "Dissertatio
Ireland."

"To Charles O'C

"Sir,

"I have lately, by the fa
seen your account of Ireland,
solicit a prosecution of your

[1] [Of this gentleman, who die
gare, in the county of Roscom
1791, in his 82d year, some acco
Gentleman's Magazine of that d
alluded to by Dr. Johnson—"D
tory of Ireland"—a second and

Temple complains that Ireland is less known tha any other country, as to its ancient state. Th natives have had little leisure, and little encourage ment for enquiry; and strangers, not knowing th language, have had no ability.

"I have long wished that the Irish literatu were cultivated.[1] Ireland is known by tradition have been once the seat of piety and learning; an surely it would be very acceptable to all those wh are curious either in the original of nations, or th affinities of languages, to be further informed the revolution of a people so ancient, and once illustrious.

"What relation there is between the Welsh an Irish language, or between the language of Irelan and that of Biscay, deserves enquiry. Of the provincial and unextended tongues, it seldom hap pens that more than one are understood by any on man; and, therefore, it seldom happens that a fa comparison can be made. I hope you will continu to cultivate this kind of learning, which has to

[1] The celebrated oratour, Mr. Flood, has shown him self to be of Dr. Johnson's opinion; having by his w bequeathed his estate, after the death of his wife Lad Frances, to the University of Dublin; desiring th immediately after the said estate shall come into the possession, they shall appoint two professors, one for th study of the native Erse or Irish language, and the oth for the study of Irish antiquities and Irish history, an

Letter to Thomas Warton

long lain neglected, and whic
remain in oblivion for anoth
haps, never be retrieved. A
useful undertakings, I would
know how much you deserv
all lovers of study, and hov
work has given to, Sir,

"Your most ob

"And m

"London, April 9, 1757."

"To the Reverend Mr.

"DEAR SIR,

"Dr. Marsili of Padu
and good Latin poet, has a n
have given him a letter to
shall be glad if you will int
him any thing in Oxford.

"I am printing my new e

"I long to see you all, b
come yet. You might write
if you were good for any
mutant mores. Professors fo
shall certainly complain to M

"Your, &

"[London] June 21, 1757.

"Please to make my comp

1 "Now, or late, Vice-Chanc

2 "Mr. Warton was elected
Oxford in the preceding year."

Mr. Burney having enclosed to him an extr
from the review of his Dictionary in the *Bib*
thèque des Savans,[1] and a list of subscribers to
Shakspeare, which Mr. Burney had procured
Norfolk, he wrote the following answer:

"To Mr. Burney, in Lynne, Norfolk.

"Sir,

"That I may show myself sensible of y
favours, and not commit the same fault a sec
time, I make haste to answer the letter whic
received this morning. The truth is, the ot
likewise was received, and I wrote an answer;
being desirous to transmit you some proposals
receipts, I waited till I could find a conveni
conveyance, and day was passed after day, till ot
things drove it from my thoughts; yet not so,
that I remember with great pleasure your co
mendation of my Dictionary. Your praise
welcome, not only because I believe it was sinc
but because praise has been very scarce. A
of your candour will be surprised when I tell y

parties. She was a very ingenious poetess, and publis
a volume of poems; and, on the whole, was a most
sible, agreeable, and amiable woman. She was siste
the Reverend River Jones, Chanter of Christ-Chu
cathedral at Oxford, and Johnson used to call her

Letter to Dr. Burney

that among all my acquainta
two, who upon the publicatio
endeavour to depress me wi
from the publick, or with o
those who had learned them
Your's is the only letter of
received; though, indeed, I a
of that sort from Sweden.

"How my new edition [1] w
not; the subscription has no
I shall publish about March.

"If you can direct me hov
should wish that they were i

"I remember, Sir, in so
with which you favoured m
lady. May I enquire after h
favours which you have she
to tell you, that I wish you
conduce to your happiness.

"Your most ob

"And mo

"Gough-square, Dec. 24, 1757.

[1] Of Shaksp

This issue of Boswell's "Life of Johnson," *the text of the sixth edition (as explained in the accon Notes), has been edited by* Mr. Arnold Glover *Inner Temple, who has added the Marginalia, the the end of each volume, and the Chronological Tab end of Volume VI.*

June 1, 1897.

NOTES

Introductory.—The advertisements prefixed to the fi
editions of the *Life* are printed at the beginning o
volume, and will give the reader a general idea of th
history of Boswell's text. Boswell did not live to s
third edition published, but he seems to have inc
where some part of the fresh matter should be inserte
though new matter by Malone and others was adde
probable that the third edition most faithfully repr
the work as Boswell left it. On the other hand, so
Johnson's best letters, such, *e.g.*, as those written co
ing his mother during her last illness, were commun
to Malone after Boswell's death, and were first publis
the fourth edition. If the third edition had been a
for the present issue, these letters, which Boswell
certainly have published if he had had the opport
must either have been omitted, or published in the
of notes or *addenda*. Moreover, Malone, who had a
assisted Boswell by revising the work before it was
lished, was a specially well qualified editor. Boswell'
testimony to the value of Malone's assistance is emp
Writing to his friend Temple (28th November, 178
says: "The revision of my *Life of Johnson* by so acut
knowing a critic as Mr. Malone is of the most ess
consequence, especially as he is *Johnsonianissimus*."
these circumstances, it has been thought best to adop
text of the sixth edition, the last published unde
editorship of Malone. In the preparation of that ed
great care was taken to render the text as free as po

brackets, and signed with the nam
sake of space, Malone's notes are
"Malone." The notes signed "
by James Boswell, the author's se
in the sixth edition of the *Life* to
to the Hebrides are to the third editi
in 1786. In the present edition
convenient to substitute reference
In the case of references to later
generally been necessary to substi
for a reference to the volume and

During the interval of seven ye
Johnson's death and the publicatio
works of biographical interest
published. Of these Boswell's o
Hebrides, published in 1785, is b
Croker refers to this *Journal* as "
and amusing portion of the whole
year appeared *Prayers and Med
Johnson, LL.D., and published by Geo
Mrs. Piozzi published *Anecdotes
LL.D., during the last twenty years
Letters to and from the late Samuel
Hawkins, one of Johnson's execu
Samuel Johnson, three editions ap
Boswell has much to say about
Hawkins's *Life*, and he also refe
Memoirs and *Anecdotes*. The first
Life of Johnson was published in
here reprinted, in 1811.

After the death of Malone, in 18
of Boswell's *Life* were, with some
exceptions, mere reprints of th
edition by the Right Hon. Joh
volumes, was published in 183
Croker took with Boswell's text
printing in their chronological p
to the Hebrides, and Johnson's *Di
Wales* (first published in 1816),
text a quantity of extraneous

NOTES

haracteristic way by Carlyle; and in a second C
dition, published in ten volumes in 1835, a change
nade, the materials "derived from other pens than th
Dr. Johnson and the original biographer" being eithe
ributed in notes or printed as *Johnsoniana* in the ninth
enth volumes. But even in this, and in a later e
ublished by Croker in one volume in 1848, the text
ully restored. The *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* an
Diary of a Journey into North Wales* still occupy their
n the middle of the *Life*; extracts from the Thrale C
pondence and a number of letters from Johnson to va
ersons are inserted; a few expressions are here and
mitted; and the various legal arguments which Jo
vrote for Boswell are relegated from the text to *appe*
n the 1835 edition, which was published under the dire
f John Wright, Boswell's text was for the first time di
nto chapters. Modern editors, while recognising and
ting by Croker's labours, have avoided these errors
ave preferred to present in the form of notes or *app*
he very large quantity of material which now exist
upplementing Boswell's narrative.

The quantity of this material has been increased w
nore or less recent years by the publication of Ma
D'Arblay's *Diary and Letters* (1842), Dr. Thomas Camp
Diary of a Visit to England in* 1775 (1854), and *Lett
ames Boswell addressed to the Rev. W. J. Temple* (1857).

Among the innumerable post-Crokerian editions o
ife should be mentioned the Rev. A. Napier's (five vol
884), which contains Dr. Campbell's *Diary*, and the
aborate edition published by the Clarendon Press
olumes, 1887), under the editorship of Dr. G. Birk
Hill. To his edition of the *Life* Dr. Hill has added
olumes of Johnson's Letters, and, quite recently,
olumes of *Johnsonian Miscellanies.*

The following notes consist, to a large extent, of

Page

ix. Samuel Clarke (1675–1729), author of *Discourse* *cerning the Being and Attributes of God*, and many o philosophical and theological works, is freque referred to in the *Life*.

ix. *Beau Nash.* Richard Nash (1674–1761), the Ma of Ceremonies at Bath. Goldsmith publishe Life of him in 1762.

xvi. Sir Joshua Reynolds died on the 23rd February, 1

xvii. *Quid virtus, etc.* Horace, *Ep.* I. 2, 17.

"To shew what pious wisdom's power can do,
The poet sets Ulysses in our view."—*Francis.*

Rev. Philip Francis (1708–1773) published his tr lation of Horace in 1742. For Johnson's favour opinion of it, see under May 16, 1778.

xviii. *Embassy.* Lord Macartney was at this time at head of the first embassy from Great Britain China.

xix. The method of distinguishing the notes descri here and in the advertisement to the fourth edi was not followed in the sixth edition. See In ductory Note.

xx. *The Rev. Thomas Fysche Palmer.* The reference is to the third edition. The mistake was corre in subsequent editions.

xxv. note. Boswell never published the edition of Jo son's poems here spoken of as "promised."

4. *A lady.* Mrs. Piozzi.

4. John Toland (1669–1722) published his *Life of M* in 1698, Peter Desmaiseaux (1666–1745) his *V Boileau* in 1712.

5. William Mason (1725–1797) published his *Me of Gray* in 1775.

7. *Upon a former occasion, i.e.*, in the *Tour to the Hebride*

7. William Whitehead (1715–1785), poet-laureate f 1757, lived with the Earl and Countess of Jersey

8. *Thuanus, i.e.*, Jacques Auguste de Thou (1553–16 whose History of his own time Johnson had s thought of translating. See *post*, 1784, Anecd by Mr. Nichols.

10. *Secker.* Thomas Secker (1693–1768), Archbisho

NOTES

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saved by Johnson's servant, Francis Barb
published in 1805 under the title of *An Accou*
Life of Dr. Samuel Johnson, from his Birth to hi
year, written by Himself.

16. *Sacheverel.* Mr. Croker pointed out that Sa
being interdicted from preaching for three yea
February, 1710, could not have preached at
while Johnson was under three years of ag
therefore regarded the whole story as apocryph
Napier and Dr. Birkbeck Hill both regard t
as substantially true.

20. Thomas Carte (1686–1754), in a note to Vol.
History of England (4 vols., 1747–55), ascribe
Pretender the power of curing by the tou
consequence of this note the Corporation of
withdrew their subscription to the work.

21. *Rome.* Boswell means that Johnson's mother sho
taken him to the Pretender to be touche
Pretender was at this time living in France
Rome.

22. *Green.* Dr. John Green (1706–1779), Bishop
coln, one of the writers of the *Athenian Letters*
1741–43).

22. *Congreve.* Charles Congreve, of whose latter
Johnson's striking description, sub. March 2
—*Croker.*

22. Addison was for a time a scholar at the
Grammar School.

26. Dr. Thomas Percy (1729–1811), Bishop of D
editor of the *Reliques of Ancient English Poe*
published in 1765.

34. *Settle's.* Elkanah Settle (1648–1723), the
Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel*, Part II. John
(1600–1676), poet and printer, published tra
of Æsop, Homer, and Virgil.

Page

44. *Igneus est, etc.* Virgil, *Æneid*, vi. 730.
this and the two following lines:
"Th' ethereal vigour is in all the
And ev'ry soul is filled with equ
As much as earthly limbs, and g
Of mortal members subject to de
Blunt not the beams of heav'n ar

45. *The Whole Duty of Man*, the author
been attributed to various persons,
in 1659.

45. William Law's (1686–1761) *Serious C*
Holy Life was published in 1729.

54. Mr. Croker, after an examination of
came to the conclusion that "John
college December 12, 1729, though
on the books till October 8, 173
Johnson's residence at Pembroke
from "a little more than three ye
teen months. Dr. Birkbeck Hill, i
Friends and Critics, discusses the quest
comes to the same conclusion as M
be observed that if Johnson left co
1729, there are nearly two years of
Boswell gives no account.

55. Mr. Levett was a gentleman of fort
bourhood, and must not be con
humble friend of the same name
was so charitable in after life.—*Crok*

58. *Anthony Blackwall.* If Johnson left O
reason here given against his hav
to Anthony Blackwall has no force.

62. *From the French.* Lobo's *Voyage* w
French by the Abbé le Grand.

65. *Politian* (Angelo Poliziano, 1454–149
nent among the restorers of polite lit
No. 127).

65 note 2. In this learned masquerade o
Fontanerius we have some difficulty in
de Sévigné's friend, Pelisson. . . .
Avranche, wrote Memoirs of his ow

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Page

76. *Delightful task, etc.* Thomson's *Spring*, lines 1

77. *Ut pueris, etc.* Horace, *Sat.* I. 1, 25.

"As masters fondly soothe their boys to
With cakes and sweetmeats."—*Franc*

80. *Turkish History.* Knolles's *History of the Turks*
lished in 1603), praised by Johnson (*Rambler*
and by Lord Byron (Works, ix. 141).

81. *Mr. Lovibond.* Edward Lovibond (1724–17
Tears of Old May Day appeared in 1754.

83. *Ofellus.* See Horace, *Sat.* II. 2, 1–4. *Ofellus*
Ofella.

"What, and how great the virtue, friends
On what the gods with frugal bounty gi
(Nor are they mine, but sage Ofellus' ru
Of mother wit, and wise without the scl
Come learn with me, but learn before ye

97. William Guthrie (1708–1770) published a
historical works.

98. John Oldham (1653–1683), the "English
published his *Satires upon the Jesuits* in 1680.

105. Samuel Derrick (1724–1769), an Irishman,
wrote *Letters written from Liverpool, Chester,*
succeeded Beau Nash as Master of Cere
Bath.

106. Robert Dodsley (1703–1764), who wrote a
plays, of which the most successful was *Cl*
is best known by his *Select Collection of Old*
vols., 1744), and his *Collection of Poems by Se*
(3 vols., 1748).

106. The collected works of Paul Whitehead (1
were published in 1777.

106. *A riotous and profane club.* The Monks of M
Abbey.

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conduct of it was the subject
though he was acquitted, h
military employment.

108. Jonathan Richardson the elder
several works on painting. H
Richardson the younger (169
planatory Notes and Remarks on

121. *De Cons.*, *i.e.*, De Consolatione

122. *Boerhaave.* Hermann Boerhaave
trious Dutch physician.

123. *Mr. Brooke.* Henry Brooke
The Fool of Quality. His pla
prohibited by the Lord Chan
supposed to satirise Sir R. W

128. *Dr. Archibald Cameron.* See th
gauntlet for a defence of the G

129. John Philip Barretier (1721–17
cocious scholarship.

131. Colley Cibber (1671–1757), th
poet-laureate from 1730.

135. Peter Burman (1668–1741), t
jurist.

135. Thomas Sydenham (1624–1689)

140. Jean Pierre Crousaz (1663–17
and 1738 an examination
William Warburton (1698–177
("supercilious Warburton"),
Vindication of Pope's Essay on M
Crousaz, published in 1740.

143. Richard Mead, M.D. (1673–1
number of works on medical

143. Thomas Birch, D.D. (1705–
biographical and historical w

144. James Craggs the elder (1657
son, James Craggs the your
among the ministers most d
South Sea scheme.

152. Giffard was the manager of
house, where Garrick made
October 19, 1741, in the cha
Wright.

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Oxford, and published, besides the *Harleian M*
The British Librarian (1737), and a *Life of S*
Raleigh (1738).

161. The edition of Shakespeare by Sir Thomas
(1676–1746), once Speaker of the House of C
was published in 1744.

163 note. There is no evidence whatever that any
pieces were Johnson's, and every reason to
that they are all Hawkesworth's.—*Croker.*

165. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino, and
Radcliffe were executed in 1746, and Lor
in 1747, for participation in the Jacobite Re

166. The Epilogue to Ambrose Phillips's play,
tressed Mother, was probably written by Addis
Johnson's *Life of Phillips.*

170. *Earl of Orrery.* John Boyle, Earl of Cork an
(1707–1762), author of *Remarks on the*
Writings of Dr. Jonathan Swift (1751).

173. Dr. Percy gives a more intelligible account
manner in which Johnson compiled his Di
He began "by devoting his first care to a
perusal of all such English writers as we
correct in their language; and under every
which he meant to quote he drew a line, a
in the margin the first letter of the wo
which it was to occur." These sentences w
transcribed on separate slips of paper, and
under the word referred to.

174. John Hawkesworth (1715–1773) published in
Account of the Voyages undertaken, etc., by Commod
Captain Wallis, Captain Carteret, and Captain
which he received £6000.

180 note. Jane Shore, mistress of Edward IV.; La
mistress of Louis XIV.

Page

191. *Bruy.* La Bruyère, referri
French Academy, says: '
présent un chef-d'œuvre
plusieurs" (*Caractères*, ch.

195. James Elphinston (1721–1
in *Fifty Years' Correspondenc
in Prose and Verse, etc.* (1
duce a kind of phonetic s

204 note. George Bubb Doding
Lord Melcombe, whose *D*

206. Ephraim Chambers (? 168
pædia in 1728.

207. *Sanderson.* For Robert San
of Lincoln, see Isaak Wa

207. *Hakewell.* George Hakew
*Apology or Declaration of
God in the Government of th*

207. *A Great Personage.* George

207. *Cum tabulis, etc*

" [But he, who studies ma
A finish'd piece, and buil
Shall with his papers, fa
Assume the spirit of a ce
Boldly blot out whatever
Or lightly mean, unwort
Immortal honour, thoug
With warm reluctance, a
Though yet enshrined w
And claim a sanction fro
As from the treasure of a
Long darken'd words he
Full into light, to dignif
Shall bring the beauties
Once by the Catoes, and
But now deform'd, and o
New words he shall ende
Shall authorize, and curr
Then, brightly smooth,
Like a pure river, throug
Shall pour the riches of
And bless his Latium wi

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208. *Si forté, etc.*

"——— A new-discovered theme
For those, unheard in ancient times, may claim
A just and ample licence, which, if us'd
With fair discretion, never is refused.
New words, and lately made, shall credit clai
If from a Grecian source they gently stream,
For Virgil sure, and Varius may receive
That kind indulgence, which the Romans give
To Plautus and Cæcilius: or shall I
Be envied, if my little fund supply
Its frugal wealth of words, since bards who sun
In ancient days, enrich'd their native tongue
With large increase? An undisputed power
Of coining money from the rugged ore,
Nor less of coining words, is still confest,
If with a legal, public stamp imprest."—*Francis.*

210. *Jones.* Sir William Jones (1746–1794), th
Orientalist.

215 note. See also *Dunciad*, iii. 325.

216. Francis Cheynell (1608–1665), the turbulent
formist divine, notorious for his attack on C
worth.

229. *Mrs. Masters.* Mary Masters published a small
of poems about 1738, and, in 1755, *Familiar L*
Poems, in 8vo. She is supposed to have died
—*Croker.*

229. *Mrs. Macaulay.* Catherine Macaulay (1731–17
cording to Mr. Lecky, "the ablest writer
new Radical school," wrote a *History of*
from James I. to the Revolution (1763–77),
Answer to Burke's *Thoughts on the Cause of th*
Discontents (1770).

Page

243. Mrs. Charlotte Lennox (1720–180
number of novels and a volume o
1775.

247. *The Tarpeian Maid.* The Roman gi
the gold on the arms of the Sabine
of the citadel to them. On ente
her to death by heaping their
Livy, I. 11, 6.

252 note. Thomas Edwards's *Canons of Cri*
on Warburton's edition of Shakesp

255. In *Dr. Johnson: His Friends and Cr*
Hill shows that the "respectable
not be Johnson.

256. *A late noble Lord.* Mr. Croker su
Earl of Macclesfield, in 1752 Pres
Society.

257. Thomas Warton (1728–1790), broth
ton, was Professor of Poetry at
to 1768. His chief work was his
Poetry (3 vols., 1774–81).

268. *Ariosto.* See *Orlando Furioso*, c. xlvi.

276. Matthew Maty, M.D. (1718–1776)
Chesterfield, whose Works he publ
in 1777–78.

289 note. Mr. Croker discovered in the re
Board a letter which affords an ex
son's definition of *Excise*. It is addr
visor of Excise at Lichfield: "Ju
Commissioners received yours of th
since the justices would not give
Mr. Michael Johnson, the tanner
the facts were fairly against him
that the next time he offends, you
formation against him, but send
fact, that he may be prosecuted i
See *ante*, p. 13.

294. *Great Parliamentary reward.* Offered
ment in 1714 for the discovery of a
mining longitude within thirty mi

298. Christopher Smart (1722–1770) wr
heavy poems and translations, th

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304. *Boyle.* Hon. Robert Boyle (1627–1691), t
chemist, whose works were published in
folio in 1744.

304. *Mrs. Rowe.* Elizabeth Rowe (1674–1737),
Friendship in Death (1721).

305. *Iste tulit, etc.* Ovid. *Metam.* xiii. 19.
"Losing he wins, because his name will be
Ennobled by defeat, who durst contend wit